

**FBIS****DAILY REPORT  
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THAILAND'S RATTAKUN MAKES VISIT TO TOKYO

## Talks With Abe

OW200509 Tokyo KYODO in English 0446 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO -- Thailand called on Japan Thursday to further open its market to agricultural produce and promote joint ventures in the Southeast Asian country. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun also said his country wants Japan's economic aid which would lead to promotion of Thai exports to help whittle down the chronic trade imbalance. He made the request in a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, officials said.

A foreign ministry source said Phichai deplored Tokyo's failure to trim a tariff on boneless chicken from the current 18 percent and expressed worry about political effect the failure is having in Thailand.

Abe explained that domestic opposition forced the government not to cut tariff on boneless chicken but that the [word indistinct] government made "maximum efforts" it could to facilitate imports from Thailand and (other) countries.

Last week, Japan announced a new package of market-opening measures, including tariff reductions on frozen shrimps and cuttlefish and canned pineapples, a move Abe said would benefit the Thais.

In his talks here with Abe, Phichai again urged Japan to cut tariff on boneless chicken, arguing the issue has become a symbol of lopsided two-way trade which the Thais assert is causing a deficit of as much as 1.5 billion dollars a year.

Abe said, ministry officials later related, Japan is ready to extend technical assistance for protection of maize from mould and sterilization of fruits to aid Thailand's export drive. The Japanese foreign minister also told Phichai that imports of tapioca pellet from Thailand are steadily on the rise, the official added. Abe's proposal for working-level consultations over trade, economic cooperation and investment between the two countries received Phichai's support, the Japanese officials said.

Japan is also boosting the purchases of Thai rice for food assistance to poor countries by 2 billion yen (about 8 million dollars) from a year ago to 6.1 billion yen (about 24.6 million dollars) this year, Abe noted.

## Meets Agriculture Minister

OW210653 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 Kyodo -- Visiting Thai Vice Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun Friday renewed his appeal to Japan to reduce its import tariffs on boneless chicken. In a meeting with Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Moriyoshi Sato, Phichai expressed dissatisfaction over the absence of the tariff cut in Japan's package of market-opening measures announced on December 14, saying tariffs on U.S. chicken with bones are lower than those on boneless chicken. In reply, Sato explained the plight of Japan's chicken farmers and cited import expansion of such agricultural products as maize and tapioca.

NAKASONE MEETS SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER YI

OW210841 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- South Korea wants to work together with Japan and other developed countries for Pacific cooperation in regional economic development, Foreign minister Yi Won-kyong said here Friday.



While pledging to honor the independent positions and interests of Southeast Asian nations, Yi expressed South Korea's "strong interest" in such cooperation in "a broad concept."

In a half-hour meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the South Korean foreign minister expressed Seoul's readiness to offer expertise and data to noncommunist Southeast Asian countries. A senior Japanese official said South Korea is prepared to assist member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in development of human resources, a main theme of discussion during last July's expanded ASEAN foreign ministers conference in Jakarta.

Nakasone emphasized that the Japanese Government is lending utmost importance to ASEAN's initiatives as it proceeds with Pacific cooperation, the official said.

On relations with North Korea, Yi expressed the hope that Pyongyang would address issues between the two divided countries rationally and realistically, the Japanese official added. He did not elaborate.

North and South Korea are scheduled to hold economic and Red Cross talks January 17 and 23, respectively. The scheduled meetings were also mentioned in Yi's talks with his Japanese counterpart Shintaro Abe Friday morning. When asked by Abe if elections would be held in South Korea in February, Yi responded that the election date has not been set officially, according to a Foreign Ministry official.

The South Korean foreign minister arrived in Tokyo Thursday after visiting the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand which, together with Malaysia and Singapore, make up ASEAN. Yi was to leave for home Friday evening.

#### Yi on Olympic Invitations

OW210859 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Test] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will send invitations to the 1988 Seoul Olympics for South Korea's organizing committee, Foreign Minister Yi Won-yong said Friday. Yi said IOC made the decision during a meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland December 1-2.

In a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Shintaro Abe, Yi also said baseball will not be an official event but open competition in the Olympics. Tennis and table tennis will become official games, Yi said.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official quoted Yi as saying that the Soviet Union has not made an official decision on whether or not it will participate in the 1988 olympiad.

Yi is on an unofficial visit to Japan following a Southeast Asian tour.

#### USSR URGES SHARP CUT IN FISH CATCH QUOTA

OW210139 Tokyo KYODO in English 0129 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- The Soviet Union has called for a sharp cut in Japan's catch quota and to allow port calls by Soviet fishing boats at Onahama, Fukushima Prefecture, government officials said Friday.

The Japan-Soviet Fishery Committee started discussions last Saturday on both countries' annual catch quotas in each other's 200-mile zone and other items after a bilateral off-shore fishery accord was formally signed December 7.

The officials are worried about the slow progress in talks, because Japanese fishing boats are scheduled to leave their ports on January 1. For this year, Japan was given a 700,000-ton quota, including pollack and cuttlefish, and the Soviets a 640,000-ton quota centering on sardines and mackerel.

JSP CONFIRMS NONFRATERNIZATION WITH ROK

OW200601 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO -- The Japan Socialist Party Thursday confirmed its policy to shun friendly relations with South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan's regime while supporting democratization movements in the country. The No 1 opposition party in a central executive committee meeting approved the policy toward Korean affairs recently compiled by the party's relevant panels.

The party panels reiteratively compiled the policy to put down intraparty controversy over party doyens' visit to South Korea last month to meet Chon. They also confirmed the party's unchanged policy to support independent peaceful reunification of North and South Korea. The policy also said the JSP would promote interchanges with Koreans in democratization movement in South Korea.

NTT CHIEF REASSURES U.S. ABOUT 'DISCRIMINATION'

OW210911 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- The chief of Japan's telecommunications monopoly, Hisashi Shinto Friday brushed aside U.S. fears that foreign equipment makers may be discriminated against after the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corp [NTT] is denationalized next year.

The same day, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications was to release guidelines designed to reassure foreign firms that foreign test data would be accepted, government sources said. Legislation to transfer the government monopoly into private hands from April next year passed the Japanese Diet Thursday.

Asked in a meeting with foreign journalists whether a new body to examine and approve equipment standards might discriminate against foreign products, Shinto said bluntly "what discrimination?" He said if that was all the trust Americans had in the Japanese "then it's just too bad."

The former shipbuilding executive, considered to be a champion of free competition, pointed out that from April next year NTT would be just "one of them" in the industry and stripped of its administrative powers. He said, nevertheless, NTT's private successor would do what it could in the interests of foreign firms and would maintain its policy of buying the best quality equipment at the lowest price, whether Japanese or foreign. But if Americans were concerned about discrimination they should take up the issue directly with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Shinto said.

Asked whether NTT was likely to buy more foreign goods after the corporation goes private, Shinto said "to be frank, in the case of hardware, I am pessimistic."

But software purchases from overseas could increase, he said, "as long as our (trade) partners are willing to release the kind of software NTT wants to buy, and that is a delicate question."

Shinto predicted the private NTT company will have to spend much more on research and development "to survive in its new situation." He hinted that staff levels in future may have to be pared down. But on the question of whether he himself will head the new company, he was evasive. "If the government doesn't think I'm qualified, that's the end of the story," he said.

#### MITI REPORTS NOVEMBER CRUDE OIL IMPORTS DOWN

OW210911 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- Japan's crude oil imports decreased 19.9 percent 15.32 million kiloliters in November from a year ago for the third straight year-to-year drop, mainly due to rising stocks, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Friday. Preliminary figures said the November imports, including 704,000 kiloliters for national reserves, were down 6.9 percent from October as demand slackened in unusually warm weather last month, MITI officials said.

Crude oil imports from Middle East countries declined 19 percent from a year ago but increased 1 percent over October to 11.4 million kiloliters. Those from Saudi Arabia dropped 40.3 percent from a year ago but rose 4.2 percent over the previous month to 3.8 million kiloliters while those from United Arab Emirates increased 13.4 percent over a year ago and 17.5 percent over October to 3.1 million kiloliters.

Japan's imports of crude passing through the Straits of Hormuz amounted to 69.7 percent of total imports in November, up from 61 percent in the previous month, the officials said. Crude imports from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei declined 24.8 percent from a year ago and 15.4 percent from October to 2.5 million kiloliters.

Crude oil processed last month totaled 16.0 million kiloliters, down 2.4 percent from a year ago but up 2.4 percent over October. Production of fuel oil came to 14.0 million kiloliters, down 5.9 percent from a year ago and 0.4 percent from October.

Crude oil inventory in private sector declined 6 percent from a year ago to 26.3 million kiloliters for the first year-to-year drop in five months. It was down 10.8 percent from October. Fuel oil sales in November dropped 3.7 percent from a year ago but rose 8.5 percent over October to 15.4 million kiloliters.

#### AGRICULTURE MINISTRY CONFIRMS RECORD RICE CROP

OW210639 Tokyo KYODO in English 0308 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO -- Japan will harvest the best rice crop in six years in 1984, with the average yield rising to a record high, the government confirmed Friday. The agriculture, forestry and fisheries ministry said the rice crop index for 1984 stood at 108 this month against the average year of 100, unchanged from the previous survey in October and the highest level since a matching figure was marked in 1978.

The index had been below 100 until last year after hitting 103 in 1979.

The ministry estimated this years rice crop at 11.88 million metric tons, up 15 percent from 1983. It averaged 517 kilograms per 10 (?acres), a record high eclipsing the previous peak of 499 kilograms in 1978.

AID TO BE PROVIDED TO PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA

OW200721 Tokyo KYODO in English 0659 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO -- Japan will extend grant aid totaling 1.03 billion yen (4.1 million dollars) to the Philippines and Indonesia for helping improve local sanitation and biomas energy development, a government spokesman said Thursday. He said that of the total, 965 million yen (3.9 million dollars) will be provided to the Philippines for its purchase materials and equipment necessary for implementation of a pilot project to improve local environment and sanitation in the Philippines.

The remaining 66 million yen (267,000 dollars) will go to Indonesia to help it buy materials for its research and development center on biomas energy, he added.

BRIEFS

AID GRANT TO BURMA -- Tokyo, 18 Dec. KYODO -- Japan Tuesday exchanged notes with the Burmese Government on extension of a 1.15 million yen (about 4.66 million dollars) grant-in-aid to Burma, the Foreign Ministry said. The Japanese aid will help Burma build a center for repairing fishing boats in a plan to boost fishing hauls. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 18 Dec 84 OW]

AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION VENTURE WITH FRANCE

SK211131 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA) -- Comrade Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council, received today and had a friendly conversation with Senator Louis Perrein, president of the "senatorial group for contact and study of French-Korean economic and cultural problems," Alain Vivien, member of the National Assembly of France and vice-president of the "group for the study the affairs of the DPRK" in the National Assembly, and Gilbert Simonet, general director of the Campenon Bernard Construction Company of France.

Satisfaction was expressed on the occasion over having reached agreement on jointly undertaking hotel construction between the Korean first equipment export and import company and the Campenon Bernard Construction Company of France and emphasis was laid on extensively conducting this cooperation and joint venture in various fields. On hand were Minister Chong Song-nam and Vice-Minister Kim Chong-u for external economic affairs.

KIM YONG-NAM CONTINUES VISIT TO EAST EUROPE

## Talks With Andrei

SK180003 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2332 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 18 (KCNA) -- Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam who is on a visit to the Romanian Socialist Republic had talks with Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei on December 15 in Bucharest. At the talks the two sides exchanged views on the problem of further expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Romanian Socialist Republic and a series of international problems of common concern.

The two sides reached a consensus of views on all problems discussed at the talks. The talks proceeded in a friendly and comradely atmosphere.

## Meeting With Ceausescu

For Bucharest AGERPRES coverage of the meeting between DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski in Warsaw, see the Poland section of the 21 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

## Meeting With Olszowski

For Pyongyang KCNA coverage of the meeting between DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski in Warsaw, see the Poland section of the 21 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

CHON'S PLAN TO IMPRISON KIM TAE-CHUNG CRITICIZED

SK210722 (Clandestine) Voice of the RPR in Korean to South Korea 1000 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo -- The Japanese minister of justice criticized the Chon Tu-hwan ring's plan to imprison Kim Tae-chung upon his return from the United States, saying that it would be a great human rights problem.



At the 18 December meeting of the Judiciary Committee at the Japanese Diet, Minister of Justice Shimasaki criticized the Chon Tu-hwan ring when answering a JSP member's question as to whether the Japanese Government will express its own opinion about the South Korean Government's position to imprison Kim Tae-chung if he returns.

Saying that he knew a little about how Kim Tae-chung was escorted from Japan, Minister Shimasaki said that it would be a great human rights problem if South Korea were to imprison Kim simply because of his return to his own country.

#### NODONG SINMUN COMMENTS ON JAPANESE ARMY CRIMES

SK201026 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 20 (KCNA) -- Kanekuni Ozawa, who was chief of the protection section of the Unit 516 of the Japanese imperialist aggression army till its defeat, disclosed in part of his testimony published in a Japanese paper recently that the Japanese imperialists had thrown away drums and iron containers of toxic gas into the (Tokro) River in Kanggye of our country.

In this connection NODONG SINMUN Thursday comes out with a commentary titled "Truth of Shocking Crimes Must Be Uncovered," which reads in part:

The Unit 516 of the Japanese imperialist aggression army was a hideous toxic gas unit which, forming a twin party with the Unit 326, a battle group which actually waged a poisonous gas warfare, engaged itself in the researches and manufacture of toxic gas for chemical warfare and trained officers and men, using a large number of defenceless Korean, Chinese and Soviet people as guinea pigs.

Noting that the brutalities committed by this murderous toxic gas unit against the Korean people and the Chinese and Soviet peoples are being brought to light one after another even today when nearly 40 years have passed since the defeat of Japanese imperialism, the paper declares: We cannot overlook the thrice-cursed crimes of the Japanese imperialist aggressors.

The Japanese reactionaries, however, refuse to admit the barbarous experiments on living bodies carried out by the Units 516 and 731, the devilish units, and openly threaten the testifiers of the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists, saying "what's the use of talking about things of bygone days now."

In Japan, today, war criminals are strutting about and the militarists, the revived spectres of the Japanese imperialists, are going on the rampage to realise their (?goals). Our nations will make the Japanese imperialists pay prices for their past crimes a thousand-fold. The Japanese authorities must clarify the truth of the testimony of Kanekuni Ozawa. This is their unavoidable obligation.

#### RALLY MARKS CUBAN REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

SK210811 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA) -- A Tokchon County meeting was held on December 20 on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban Revolution.

Placed on the platform of the meeting hall were a portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and a portrait of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme leader of the Cuban Revolution.

Present at the meeting were personages concerned and working people in the county. Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Danza Sigas and his embassy officials in Pyongyang were present there on invitation. Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

KANG SONG-SAN MEETS HUNGARIAN, MONGOLIAN ENVOYS

SK192325 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2317 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 20 (KCNA) -- Premier Kang Song-san on December 19 met and had a conversation with Janos Taraba, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hungarian People's Republic to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him. Present there were Yi Chong-mok, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, and an official of the Hungarian Embassy in Pyongyang.

Yesterday Premier Kang Song-san also met and had a talk with Perenlein Urjinkhudev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Mongolian People's Republic of our country, who paid a courtesy call on him. On hand were Kim Chae-suk, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and an official of the Mongolian Embassy in Pyongyang.

SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD MEETS HWANG CHANG-YOP

SK200355 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0337 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 20 (KCNA) -- Dolores Ibarruri, chairman of the Spanish Communist Party, on December 14 met the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee. The head of the delegation conveyed cordial regards of Comrade Kim Il-song to Chairman Dolores Ibarruri.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the chairman asked the head of the delegation to convey his wholehearted wishes for good health and a long life to Comrade Kim Il-song. The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

On the same day Gerardo Iglesias, general secretary of the Spanish Communist Party, also met the WPK delegation.

HWANG CHANG-YOP, WPK GROUP VISIT SPAIN

SK210402 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0335 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by its Central Committee Secretary Hwang Chang-yop visited Spain from December 8 to 17.

During the visit, talks were held between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Spanish Communist Party.

Present at the talks on our side were the members of the delegation and on the opposite side were Simon Sanchez Montero, secretary of the International Department, and Romero Marin, secretary of the Financial Department, who are members of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party, and the director of the International Department of the Party.

The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere.

During its visit the delegation was entertained to a party arranged by the Central Committee of the SCP, and to a luncheon arranged by Santiago Carrillo, member of the Executive Committee of the SCP Central Committee, and visited local areas.



SEOUL TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY IN TALKS WITH NORTH

SK210310 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (OANA-YONHAP) -- South Korea will exercise a more flexible attitude next year in its dialogue with North Korea, Unification Minister Son Chae-sik said Thursday.

Son told reporters that the South will accept the North's contentions at maximum, even if the North produces proposals that yield more profits to it. "Without the sudden breakout of an unexpected situation and an abrupt change in the North Korean attitude, there will be considerable progress in the inter-Korean dialogue next year," Son said.

In January, South and North Korea will hold the second round of inter-Korean economic talks as well as resume the full-dress meeting of Red Cross officials after 11 years of absence.

"If the North does not engage in dialogue for propaganda's sake, the possibility that the two Koreas will reach some agreement cannot be excluded," Son added.

Son said that the primary aim of South Korea in the dialogue is to reduce tension between the two sides, to diminish the disadvantage from national division through exchange and cooperation and to rest a foundation for peaceful reunification.

In regard to the North's proposal for talks between deputy prime ministers or higher level officials, Son said the South welcomes direct inter-Korean talks "at any level" because it had earlier proposed talks between highest authorities of the two sides.

Son said that the North fails to respond to the South's repeated calls for resumption of the inter-Korean sports talks. However, Son predicted that the North will not arrive at the economic talks and Red Cross talks with negative attitude because that has different interests in each fields.

South and North Korean sports officials met three times early this year to discuss formation of single inter-Korean teams to compete in the Los Angeles Olympics and other international events. However, they failed to reach an agreement, and the talks were suspended after the North walked out.

Saying that the North has expressed its interest in cultural and artistic exchange, Son added that inter-Korean economic and Red Cross talks may develop into cultural talks when progress is made.

When asked about the prospect of the reconnection of a railway linking the two Koreas, Son replied that this was virtually agreed on in principle, because it was proposed by both sides. "It will be realized when the trade volume between the two Koreas grows large enough to warrant railway transportation," he said.

The railroad linking Seoul and the northern city of Shinuiju has been cut off by the North since Korea's 1945 liberation from the Japanese colonial rule.

CHON URGES AIR FORCE ANTIAIRCRAFT VIGILANCE

SK210101 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (OANA-YONHAP) -- President Chon Tu-hwan directed the Air Force Thursday to strengthen its combat capability sufficiently so as to smash any enemy attack in its initial stages.

A victory in the future will depend on who controls the air space, Chon said during his inspection tour of an air base. He said that North Korea is able to stage a surprise attack because northern fighters take only ten minutes from take-off to attack Seoul. Also, the president heard a briefing on a joint counterattack plan of the Korean and U.S. Air Forces. He said that Korean and American Air Forces should develop the capacity for sophisticated joint air operation. Chon directed officers to tighten anti-aircraft vigilance, over the holidays in particular.

OPPOSITION GROUP HOLDS MEETING FOR NEW PARTY

Yi Min-wu Elected Chairman

SK210122 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Old-time politicians, removed from the political ban, yesterday held a promoters' rally for the founding of a new party, tentatively named the "New Korea Democratic Party."

The meeting, attended by 115 promoters, approved the nomination of Yi Min-wu, a leading member of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, as chairman of the preparatory committee for the inauguration of the projected party.

A group of 12 working-level negotiators, representing the CPD and non-CPD group, nominated Yi earlier in the day after a marathon meeting that began Wednesday afternoon. Yi, 69, was former vice speaker of the National Assembly and legislator of the now-defunct New Democratic Party.

The promoters' rally at the auditorium of Hungsadan (Young Korean Academy) also approved five nominees for vice chairman of the preparatory committee. The vice chairman candidates are Kim Nok-yong, Cho Yon-ha, Yi Ki-taek, Kim Su-han and Pak Yong-man, all former NDP lawmakers. Pak was the last-minute replacement for No Sung-hwan who was originally among the five nominees. The preparatory committee was registered with the Central Election Management Committee later in the day.

The committee will organize a panel soon to begin the work of screening and nominating local chapter organizers, one of the requirements for inaugurating a party. If a person is appointed the organizer of a chapter, he is virtually assured of candidacy to run on the group's ticket in the forthcoming elections.

In a statement they issued at the rally, the promoters said that "all democratic figures have agreed to create a new party to establish civilian politics in the country." The statement urged all to be together under the flag of the new party "to restore democracy and to achieve a peaceful transfer of power." It asserted that constructing a free, democratic society is the only way to overcome difficulties facing the nation.

The promoters also adopted a five-point resolution. The resolution called for the lifting of the political ban which still bars 15 persons from politics and the postponement of the timing of the next parliamentary elections, now expected in mid-February.

It said that they are resolved to make utmost efforts to bring institutional reforms to the country for the realization of peaceful change of government. "We are also resolved to make maximum efforts to win the elections to help this country restore democracy," the resolution said.

In a message to the people they adopted at the end of the rally, the promoters said the new party which they called a body of democratic forces, opposed politics of violence and any acts destroying constitutional rule.

Seven other promoters did not attend the rally. Among the promoters are 39 former lawmakers, mostly those of the NDP, who were allowed to resume political activity on three occasions. Also included in the promoters are 15 incumbent legislators. They include nine lawmakers who bolted from the main opposition Democratic Korea Party Wednesday.

The others include some reinstated former legislators of the late President Pak Chong-hui's now-disbanded Democratic Republican Party.

#### Multiparty System Criticized

SK210128 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Yi Min-wu, 69, just-elected chairman of the party creation preparatory committee of the tentatively named New Korea Democratic Party, said yesterday the present multiparty system was introduced "for the conveniences of the ruling Democratic Justice Party to retain power."

Describing the projected party as a "genuine opposition party," he argued that the existing opposition Democratic Korea Party was a "branch of the ruling party within the system."

"Can an opposition party without the will to seize power exist as an opposition party?" he questioned, aiming at the major opposition DKP led by his one-time colleague Rep. Yu Chi-song in the days of the disbanded New Democratic Party.

Yi once served as National Assembly vice speaker.

Despite the fact that the general elections are only about 50 days off, he further said, the new party will put up candidates in all 92 constituencies to obtain a position as a major opposition party.

#### S. KOREA PROTESTS JAPAN TARIFF MEASURES

SK210838 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP) -- The South Korean Government has expressed its dissatisfaction over Japan's plan to adjust its tariff systems next year and called again for Japan's reduction of tariffs on Korean products, Trade and Industry Ministry sources here said Friday.

Recently, the Japanese Government announced that, starting in April 1985, it would lower import tariffs on 87 agricultural products and 1,132 manufactured goods, while raising the ceiling on manufactured products to be imported under preferential tariffs to 8 percent of total imports.

After analyzing the projected adjustment in Japanese tariffs, the Trade and Industry Ministry concluded that the step should have only a limited effect in boosting Korea's exports to Japan, because the list included only a few Korean products, the sources said.

Among Korean-made items to be affected by the Japanese measure are such agricultural products as Ginseng and its roots and such manufactured goods as some textiles and steel products, the sources said.

In a move to protest the poor consideration by the Japanese Government of Korean products, the ministry called in a Japanese Embassy official in charge of trade affairs Wednesday and emphasized Korea's standing call for tariff reduction and expansion of preferential tariff systems, the sources said.

"If the Japanese side continues to neglect bilateral efforts between the two countries to correct the chronic trade imbalance standing in favor of Japan, the Korean Government would have no option but to resort to tighter import regulations against Japanese products," a ministry official said.

The official cited possible regulative measures, such as the imposition of import sub-charges on Japanese-made machinery and the diversification of the nation's import sources to other places than Japan.

#### DISSIDENTS' DECLARATION PROTESTS SEOUL POLICIES

SK210107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] A group of dissident writers had a meeting Wednesday to discuss the current social and political situation and the course that literary men should follow in the future.

Members of the Writers' Consultative Committee for Freedom met at the Hungsadan building in Tongsung-dong, Seoul, to pool their efforts for the "realization of a real democracy" in this land.

The prominent anti-government literary men who participated in the meeting included poet Ko Un and novelists Yi Mun-ku, Cho Tae-il and Hwang Sok-yong.

They read a "Writers' Declaration '84" in the meeting, asking the government to set free persons imprisoned under political oppression, including poet Kim Nam-chu, and guarantee the freedom of literary expressions, press, publication and assembly.

They also demanded of the government that the importation of agricultural goods be stopped and labor laws, the Basic Press Law and other antidemocratic statutes be repealed before the next general elections.

In the meeting about 250 students took part. After the declaration they had a session of "literary night."

DISAPPOINTMENT SEEN WITH 11TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SK191324 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 18 Dec 84 p 2

[editorial: "Inside and Outside of the 11th National Assembly"]

[Text] The 11th National Assembly, in effect, concluded on 18 December as the year 1984 draws to an end. The state of mind of the assemblymen who are leaving the National Assembly will be as entangled as that of us who are watching them leave the house.

The National Assembly, which has just concluded its session, started with only those politicians who were permitted to enter the house as members in the wake of the collapse of the Pak Chong-hui regime after the 26 October incident amid social upheaval, with 567 former politicians banned from engaging in any political activity as if indicated by the character of its formation, the 11th National Assembly had no choice but to accept as its fate limits and constraints imposed on it from the beginning.

Superficially, the pattern of management of the 11th National Assembly, which claimed a new style of politics as its motto at the very beginning, has been greatly different from that of past eras. The familiar words we had often heard in the past, such as sit-in at the National Assembly building, walk-out, forcible passage of bills in the face of strong opposition, and the opposition parties' taking to the street the struggle against the ruling party, vanished from the floor of the National Assembly. In their place, dialogue and reconciliation were praised as new virtues, political funds were equally distributed to each party, and sharp criticism of the government was ignored as claptrap.

As wished by those in power who pursued the embodiment of new politics based on dialogue, the 11th National Assembly has continued on a comparatively smooth track. Contention between the ruling and opposition parties as to which is right and polarized confrontation between them greatly abated on the floor of the 11th National Assembly, and the opposition parties have chosen a stable course, obediently remaining on the track dictated by the current system. The ruling party may comment on this as a desirable course for the opposition parties. However, from the standpoint of the people, who hope for democratic development, it was only a silence forcibly imposed on the opposition parties.

It is true that the 11th National Assembly, which is characterized by the multiparty system, allowing its members to hold extrahouse jobs, and politics based on dialogue, has in fact contributed to stabilizing the political situation by forcing the opposition and other voices of dissent to remain silent.

However, for the parliament to genuinely represent and reflect public opinion, it must maintain close ties between what can be done within the house and what is pursued outside the house. This being the case, the 11th National Assembly, which had to function with an important part of the political force excluded from participation, should have tried to bring into the house the voices of the group isolated and cast out of the house so as to make politics within the house more active. However, the 11th National Assembly seems to have failed to do so. Numerous issues have been raised and debated at the National Assembly over the past 4 years, but it has come to an end without ever presenting a plausible idea on how to resolve such rankled issues as the campus situation and labor disputes.

We are bitterly disappointed with the National Assembly which in the final stage of its term made people raise eyebrows with such clumsy things as pensions for retired assemblymen and conferring medals on some of its members while failing to work out a joint recommendation between the majority and minority parties to be presented to the government to deal with campus liberalization. When everyone in our society was agonizing over the campus situation, we advised the National Assembly to seek a solution by absorbing and reflecting public opinion. Maybe because of the silence which has fallen on campuses, the National Assembly has concluded leaving this problem unsolved. We believe that a parliament, a true parliament representing the public, should have shown an attitude of agonizing trying to solve such problems rather than leaving them unsolved.



SRV CONGRATULATED FOR THWARTING 'VERY CUNNING ACT'

BK200614 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0404 GMT 20 Dec 84

["The Chinese Expansionists Caught in the Act" -- SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 19 Dec (SPK) -- The expansionist-hegemonist Chinese were caught in a very cunning act against Vietnam. The trial for high treason and espionage held from 14 to 18 December in Ho Chi Minh City fingered Beijing as the leader of an ambitious plot to overthrow the socialist regime in that country. It also implicated as accomplices reactionary elements in Thailand and revealed direct involvement of the U.S. intelligence service in the affair.

The confessions by the accused of large numbers of weapons and ammunition and counterfeit bank notes they received from China, training on sabotage activities in Thailand, and contacts with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok have removed all doubts about a real threat of Chinese expansionism for Vietnam. They show how desperate hostile forces in China, Thailand, and the United States are in sabotaging the independence and sovereignty of peoples and how much they hate the ideas of peace and stability, particularly in South-east Asia.

The Kampuchean people warmly congratulate the fraternal Vietnamese people for their brilliant success in dismantling this vast espionage network. The fact that the Vietnamese people succeeded in strangling this plot in its early stage reflects their high revolutionary vigilance and [words indistinct] passed on the culprits shows their determination to face enemies inside and outside the country. The trial in Ho Chi Minh City will serve as a reminder for the Kampuchean people and make them more vigilant. Faced with every activity undertaken by the enemy, the PRK, in cooperation with volunteers of the Vietnamese Army in Kampuchea and the peoples of Laos and Vietnam, resolutely adopt a firm attitude toward the Chinese expansionists and their accomplices to thwart all their perfidious maneuvers.

23 'BANDITS' KILLED, WOUNDED IN BATTAMBANG

BK190355 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] During the current dry season, the revolutionary Armed Forces of Battambang Province, in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Army volunteers, have launched successful operations against the bandits. Last week, the Armed Forces of Battambang Province, in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Army volunteers, launched three operations against bandits who had sneaked across the Thai border into our territory. We killed 12 bandits, wounded 11, and captured 2. We seized four AK's and SKS's.

LECTURE ON VPA ANNIVERSARY HELD IN PHNOM PENH

BK190702 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0418 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Phnom Penh, 19 Dec (SPK) -- A lecture on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the People's Armed Forces of Vietnam was held yesterday at the seat of the Kampuchea-Vietnam Friendship Association in Phnom Penh.

Chan Ven, vice chairman of the KUFNCD National Council and chairman of the Kampuchea-Vietnam Friendship Association, discussed on this occasion the great feats of the heroic Vietnamese combatants in national defense and construction over the past 40 years. He recalled the time-honored relations of friendship between the two nations in the common struggle against colonialism, imperialism, and their henchmen -- Lon Nol and Pol Pot.

Chan Ven thanked the Vietnamese people for sending their children to save the Kampuchean people from the danger of genocide and to contribute to the defense and reconstruction of renascent Kampuchea. "The Kampuchean people are determined to follow the example of the Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces in order to win new successes in socialist construction in Kampuchea," Chan Ven said.

For his part, Doan Ngoc Can, visiting Vietnamese lecturer, dealt with the proletarian internationalist duties of the Vietnamese Armed Forces and people toward Kampuchea and the common efforts for the revolutionary cause of their respective countries. He highly appreciated the development of the Kampuchean revolution during the past 6 years under the enlightened leadership of the KPRP. "No reactionary force can break the relations of friendship between the peoples of the two countries," he affirmed.

#### CHEA SOTH RECEIVES VISITING NHAN DAN DELEGATION

BK190604 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0414 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec (SPK) -- Chea Soth, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of planning, received in audience in Phnom Penh on Tuesday [18 December] afternoon the visiting delegation of the daily NHAN DAN, central organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam, led by deputy editor Ho Duong.

On this occasion, Chea Soth informed the guests of the comprehensive development in Kampuchea and stressed the important role of newspapers in ideological work. The Kampuchean leader believes that the relations of cooperation between the press organs of Kampuchea and Vietnam will deepen with each passing day.

On his part, Ho Duong praised the all-round achievements recorded by the Kampuchean people during the past 6 years under the sensible leadership of the KPRP. He affirmed that he will do his best to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the field of information, particularly to help Kampuchea in training journalists.

#### GDR NATIONAL FRONT DELEGATION ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS

BK190401 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1157 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Phnom Penh, 17 Dec (SPK) -- The delegation of the GDR National Front National Council led by Vice Chairman of the National Council Werner Kirchhoff, alternate member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, left Phnom Penh this morning at the end of a 5-day visit to Kampuchea. It was seen off by Men Chhan and Yos Por, vice chairman and secretary general of the KUFNCD National Council respectively. Also on hand was GDR Ambassador to Kampuchea Gunter Horn.

During its stay, the delegation held talks with the delegation of the KUFNCD National Council and attended a meeting organized by the latter in its honor. The guests from the GDR visited the museum of genocide at Tuol Sleng, the mass graves at Cheung Ek, the former royal palace, and the Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey.



PAPER ON 'TARNISHED PRESTIGE' OF THAILAND'S ATHIT

BK191210 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Vientiane, [December] 19 (OANA-KPL) -- A shadow is looming large over the military and political career of Thai general Athit Kamlang-ek with all his former allies trying to get away from him, PASASON writes in an article today.

With Beijing's backing, this general is behaving more and more arrogantly by poking his nose into almost everything, even in affairs beyond his competence, the paper notes. It adds that this man has been considered the most credible challenger to Prime-Minister Prem Tinsulanon by the reactionary circles whom he represents.

The paper continues: But since A. Kamlang-ek launched a campaign of hostility against Laos by ordering his Armed Forces to occupy the three Lao hamlets in the northwestern province of Sayaboury, which was the main cause of the deterioration of the Lao-Thai relations, his prestige as supreme commander of the Thai Army has been much tarnished. Worse still, as soon as he reached Bangkok after his USA tour, he scoffed at the Prem government's decision to devalue the Thai currency -- the baht. In doing so, the paper stresses, Athit Kamlang-ek did not realize that he had deliberately interfered in the affairs of the government, and that by demanding the Prem administration to sack the minister of finance from his post, he acted as a real dictator.

KHAMTAI SIPHANDON STATEMENT ON VPA ANNIVERSARY

BK191554 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Statement given by National Defense Minister General Khamtai Siphandon to Vietnam Radio and Television correspondent--date and place not given, read by announcer]

[Text] The heroic Vietnamese People's Army is 40 years old on 22 December this year. It is a glorious traditional day for the various Vietnamese People's Armed Forces, a grand festival for the entire Vietnamese people, and an important anniversary and grand festival for the Lao Armed Forces and people as well.

According to the LPRP Central Committee Secretariat's instruction, the Lao Armed Forces, together with the people throughout the country, will joyously celebrate this special day. At present, each locality and unit is publicizing the full scope of the exceptional heroic tradition of the heroic VPA.

The VPA is a heroic army, an undaunted revolutionary army that dares to fight and win. It, together with the Vietnamese people, defeated two big imperialists, unified the country and gallantly advanced toward socialism. It helped the Kampuchean people in their uprising to overthrow the Pol Pot genocidal clique -- Beijing's stooge -- and in reconstructing the country and safeguarding the gains of the revolution. The VPA is resolutely fighting to conquer Chinese expansionist troops and firmly defending Vietnam's revolutionary cause.

These glorious and exceptional deeds are significant not only to the Vietnamese people, but also to history and mankind. Over the past 40 years, the Vietnamese Army and people have made great contributions to the cause of struggle for national independence, peace, and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

Loyal to the great President Ho Chi Minh's teaching, the VPA, under the clear-sighted leadership of the VCP headed by respected and beloved Comrade Le Duan, has persistently coordinated true patriotism with lofty proletarian internationalism. During the past 40 years, it has assisted and closely coordinated with the LPA on the same battlefield and in the same trench.

During the two periods of resistance against imperialist aggressors in the past and in the current cause of defending the socialist fatherland, the VPA has always assisted the LPA wholeheartedly, promptly, and effectively. The Vietnamese internationalist fighters have regarded the great success of their assistance to the Lao revolution as the aim of their activities and the defense and strengthening of Laos-Vietnam solidarity as the truth. Together with the Lao cadres and combatants and people of various tribes, they have heroically associated themselves with various combat movements and worked tirelessly. An uncounted number of these fighters have made lofty sacrifices for the cause of the Lao revolution.

The Vietnamese assistance to the Lao revolution is extremely precious; the Vietnamese people's love and friendship with Laos are profound and firm. The great assistance and profound love and solidarity are buried deep and forever in the hearts of all Lao cadres, combatants, and people of all tribes.

The relationship between the VPA and the LPA is one of special militant alliance and a master of life and death. It represents the law of the development of victories and has thus become the finest tradition between our two armies, which cannot be sabotaged by any enemy. The cadres and combatants of our LPA will strive to build, nurture, and strengthen the special militant solidarity and alliance forever.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the VPA, on behalf of the LPA cadres and combatants, I extend, through the Vietnam radio and television, warm and cordial regards and best wishes to all fraternal cadres and combatants of the VPA -- the bulwark of the strength of the solidarity and militant alliance among Laos, Vietnam, and Kampuchea in the defense of each socialist fatherland. The LPA expresses deep gratitude to the Vietnamese party, government, people, and VPA for giving wholehearted assistance and support to the Lao revolution and the LPA.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the VPA, the LPA cadres and combatants will strive to learn from the heroic examples set by the fraternal VPA, consolidate and build the LPA into an all-round strong revolutionary Army, and fulfill all tasks in the cause of defending and building their socialist fatherland. At the same time, we will positively strengthen the special solidarity and militant alliance between Laos and Vietnam and among Laos, Vietnam, and Kampuchea. My warm and cordial regards to the comrade volunteer combatants and experts carrying out international duties in Laos, including disabled and wounded comrades, and to the parents, wives, and children of the volunteer fighters and experts. May the heroic VPA continuously grow and become strong and fulfill all tasks set forth by the fifth VCP congress!

#### SOVIET CULTURAL DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK191146 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Vientiane, December 19 (KPL) -- A delegation of the Cultural Department of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union CC led by Ye. Afanasyev, deputy head of the department, met here on the morning of December 19 Thongsing Thammavong, alternate member of the party CC, minister of culture, and exchanged views with him on cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides briefed each other on cultural activities in their respective countries and pledged to improve their bilateral cooperation in this field.

The Soviet cultural delegation arrived here on December 18 on a nine-day official friendship visit to the Lao PDR. It was welcomed at the airport by Minister T. Thammavong and the Soviet ambassador, Vladimir Sobchenko.

NATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE MEETS WPC DELEGATION

BK181539 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Vientiane, December 18 (OANA-KPL) -- A delegation of the Lao National Committee [for] World Peace and for Solidarity and Friendship with other nations led by its chairman, Singkapo Sikhotchounlamani, met with the visiting delegation of the WPC led by its chairman Romesh Chandra here on Dec 18.

During the warm and cordial meeting, the two sides exchange views on various issues relating to the regional and international situation.

Singkapo Sikhotchounlamani informed the guests about the achievements of the Lao people in national defense and socialist construction in the past and at present.

Romesh Chandra expressed his satisfaction over the successes of the Lao people during the past 9 years. He also supported the creative measures of the Lao people for the defense of peace in Southeast Asia and in the world.

Rally Held

BK191235 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Vientiane, December 19 (OANA-KPL) -- A 1,000-strong mass rally was held here yesterday by the Laos Committee for World Peace to welcome a visiting delegation of the World Peace Council led by its president, Romesh Chandra.

Speaking at the rally, Singkapo Sikhotchounlamani, president of the Lao Committee for World Peace and Solidarity and Friendship with the Peoples, warmly welcomed the WPC delegation on its visit here. He highlighted the constant efforts of the WPC for the defence of world peace and the prevention of aggressive war plotted by the imperialist and other international reactionary forces.

The implementation of a war-mongering policy by the U.S. imperialists in collusion with the Beijing hegemonists and expansionists and other reactionary forces was the root-cause of international and regional tensions, the president of the Lao peace committee stressed. He praised the active contributions to the cause of world peace and security by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and peace and justice-loving people in the world. He thanked the WPC for its support to the struggle of the Lao people for the defence of peace, stability, security and cooperation in Southeast Asia and in the world.

The rally also heard reports on the defence of world peace made by WPC president Romesh Chandra, representative of the WPC to the UNO Dr. Kamolos Lavko, president of the Peace Council of Bolivia Karlos Kamvazan Nava, and member of the WPC and the Swedish Movement of Solidarity with Vietnam Wallden Anderson Olof.

In their reports, they spoke of the struggle of the world people for peace and against the arms race and the threat of a nuclear holocaust pursued by the Reagan administration and its allies. They voiced their support for the Lao and other Indochinese peoples in their struggle against the threat of aggression by imperialism and other international and regional reactionary forces, and for making Indochina and Southeast Asia regions of genuine peace and stability.

The rally was also attended by Thitmouan Saochanthala, Standing Committee member of the PSA and the LFNC, and other senior officials.

SPOKESMAN ON LAO TROOP BUILD-UP, SRV OFFENSIVE

BK201301 Bangkok BANKOK WORLD in English 20 Dec 84 p 40

[Text] The Army this morning charged Laos with deteriorating the atmosphere for talks by pouring in more troops and weaponry into three disputed villages on the Thai-Lao border.

The charge was delivered by Army Spokesman Maj-Gen Narudon Detpradiyut at a press conference held at the Supreme Command. He said that Laotian helicopters were spotted dropping troops and arms into the villages after Thai forces pulled out. The troops built new bunkers, modified bases and sent out patrol missions, he added.

Despite these moves, Laos pretended that it wanted to negotiate, he said. Thailand flatly refused to negotiate so long as the military build-up in the three disputed villages continued unabated and the propaganda campaign against Thailand persisted, he added. Thailand says the three villages are in Uttaradit Province while Laos claims they are in Sayaboury.

The Army spokesman went on to say that in addition to the military build-up at the three villages, Laos had also deployed tanks and troops close to the Thai border at Phibunmangsan District in Ubon, and set up bases near Thung Chang District in Nan. At the Kampuchean frontier, heavy fighting continued inside Kampuchea opposite kilometre 43-48 on the Thai side, the spokesman said.

He said although the Heng Samrin regime had launched an offensive against resistance forces, acts of sabotage inside Vietnamese-occupied areas continued without interruption, causing extensive damage to military installations, roads and other facilities. He also said that there were indications that Vietnamese forces would attack Nong Samet very soon, in a strike similar to Nong Chan. He noted there had been some reinforcement of troops at Thmar Puok.

He said that although Vietnamese troops had withdrawn after attacking Nong Chan, some 22,000 refugees were still seeking temporary shelter inside the Thai border. At the Ubon border, he said Thai forces had repulsed all Vietnamese soldiers from Hill 522 and 527 without any casualties. However, some 1,500 refugees remained at Nam Yun settlement.

VIETNAMESE FORCE MOVED TO DISPUTED VILLAGES

BK210152 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Uttaradit -- Three Laotian battalions and a Vietnamese force have been moved to the three disputed villages following the withdrawal of Thai forces, the BANGKOK POST was told yesterday.

First Cavalry Battalion deputy commander Col Phairot Chanthaurai said Laotian forces were still firing on frontier guards even though Thai troops had left Ban Mai, Ban Klang and Ban Sawang. Col Phairot said a change affecting the local watershed prompted Laos to claim sovereignty of the villages. He said a canal had been dredged in the Laotian village of Na Fai, about four kilometres from the border.

About 890 villagers who voluntarily left their homes are now living on the Thai side with support given by the military and the provincial administration. Col Phairot said the Government had yet to decide how to assist these villagers in the long run. Villager Mrs Mung Khampao said she would not return to Ban Mai even though she owns more than 120 rai there. "It is better to lose the land than to lose my head," she said.



'MAJOR ATTACK' IN KAMPUCHEA SEEN POSSIBLE 'SOON'

BK201546 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 21 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Vietnamese troops have moved military hardware, including 20 armoured vehicles, from their interior bases to forward positions confronting Khmer resistance camps opposite Ta Phraya and Aranyaprathet districts and may launch a major attack soon, the Army spokesman said yesterday.

Army Secretary Maj Gen Narudon Detpradiyut told a news conference that Vietnamese troops had also been moved to the border areas during Nov 21-Dec 18. He said that since Nov 21, about 20 tanks and armoured personnel carriers (APC's) have been moved from Phnom Penh towards Sisophon and Thmar Puok Districts in Battambang Province in the vicinity of the Ampil base of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF). In the meantime, a number of tanks and APC's as well as artillery pieces were also moved from Preah Net Preah district of Battambang to the Vietnamese base at Nimit Village and nearby military positions opposite Aranyaprathet, according to the spokesman.

Following the attack on Nong Chan settlement controlled by KPNLF fighters, the Vietnamese have continually booster their forces near the frontier, he said. He said that the three KPNLF strong holds of Ampil, Nong Samet and Nong Chan are now within range of artillery strikes from Nimit.

Northwards opposite Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, Surin and Buriram, the Vietnamese have also massed military hardware, including artillery, recoilless guns and mortars, as well as reinforcements, according to Maj Gen Narudon. A so-called battalion of armed workers were also positioned by the Vietnamese in the areas. Troops of the battalion were recruited from various Khmer villages.

During the past 30 days, Vietnamese troops crossed the frontier eight times into areas under the Army jurisdiction, he said. He added that 23,500 Khmer people had also fled across the frontier during the same period, to escape the fighting.

Group Captain Chaturong Phankhongchun, spokesman of the Chantaburi-Trat Field Force, told the conference that the Vietnamese are continuing to pour in reinforcements and military hardware to boost their forward forces opposite Pong Nam Ron District of Chantaburi. The reinforcements included a number of T-54 tanks from the 330th Infantry Division based in Kompong Speu Province, he said.

A Vietnamese regiment attacked and overrun the KPNLF stronghold at Sokh Sann on Dec 11, forcing about 10,000 Khmer civilians to flee across the frontier for shelter on Thai soil, he said. The refugees are now housed in the vicinity of Punhangnok canal about six kms inside Thailand in Bo Rai District of Trat Province. He said that about 400 Vietnamese troops crossed into Thai soil near Dan Chumphon Village in Bo Rai District in pursuit of KPNLF guerrillas on Dec 13. Thai troops pushed back the intruders the following day, according to the spokesman who added that Thai troops suffered no casualties while at least 20 Vietnamese soldiers were believed killed or injured in the fighting.

GEN ATHIT DEFENDS CONTROVERSIAL TV SPEECH

BK201445 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 20 Dec 84 p 6

["Opinion": "Gen Athit a Sadder But Wiser Man"]

[Text] An emotional man was Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek when he spoke to the organisers of the "Army Meets the People" radio programme on Monday night. He said he did not care about the widespread criticism of him when he spoke up against the government.

It concerned the hardship of the people and it was better to speak sincerely rather than to speak empty sweet words, the general maintained. Although he did not specify what he meant when he referred to his statement against the government, it was understood that he was referring to his controversial television speech on the baht devaluation on November 7 which has resulted in a major setback to his political career.

During his television appearance Gen Athit strongly criticised the government's devaluation of the baht and demanded that Pa Prem reshuffle his cabinet to formulate a new policy to revalue the baht.

Speaking to the Army programme producers last Monday at the First Army Region Headquarters on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Army Meets the People programme, Gen Athit expressed sympathy for the programme organisers. He said that people have sacrificed and devoted themselves to produce an up-to-date news programme for the people but in return have been criticised as running dogs for the military.

He praised the programme and said that although the title sounds like an Army programme it had been done with the interest of the people at heart. The supreme commander expressed his sympathy for the programme organisers and said that he and they were in the same boat.

If the government is to insist that it had not made any mistake and will not listen to other opinion then that is all right, he said. He then added the significant statement that it was good that he had made the statement because it enabled him to know who were his friends and who were not -- something which is hard to know. He did not elaborate.

The supreme commander said that he had once said that if he was to be allowed one gift from the gods he would ask for a magic eye which would allow him to look into everybody's heart. At that time, he only wanted the gift so that he could find out who were communists, but friends have reminded him that if he was to know everybody's thoughts he might not be able to sleep too well. "Now I fully understand that suggestion, because it is very said when someone whom we though had really loved us so much turns out later not to have been honest with us at all."

He named no names, but political observers noted that Gen Athit appeared very discouraged after Pa successfully played high politics and took no heed of the military demands at all.

Among the demands made by the military, the most pressing one is the call for an extension of Gen Athit's term as Army chief and supreme commander, which is due to expire next October.

Gen Athit maintained that his statement had been made with good intention and did not represent an attempt to overthrow anybody. If a statement like that made people dissatisfied and gave rise to rumours about his dismissal as Supreme Commander and Army Chief, then nobody should dare do anything anymore, he said.

Political observers have noted that Gen Athit's statement on Monday may be a signal of another struggle for survival, after it became clear that there is little or no chance for his reconciliation with Pa.

His complaint about his newly-acquired knowledge about his enemies and friends suggested a painful lesson for a sadder but wiser man who has seen former friends turn their backs on him during the recent political crisis.

The implications may be far-reaching and may provide an explanation for some of the odd goings-on in recent weeks. If one interpretation is correct it would suggest that speculations of a possible attempt at an undemocratic change of government in recent weeks might have been off the mark since it would have been difficult to gather the necessary forces together for a realistic attempt. But at the same time, it lent possible credence to other rumours of possible moves against the prime minister personally since this would not require a great deal of force.

Whatever the case, Gen Athit must be very anxious about his political future since he has not much time left and the current political climate is hardly in his favour.

If Pa continues to bide his time and play his waiting game, the general may well find that he has run out of time -- and lose everything.

#### CABINET MOVES AGAINST ATHIT EXTENSION VIEWED

BK201509 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 20 Dec 84 p 6

["Political Periscope": "Prem Plays His Card"]

[Text] Pa Prem's policy of silence has always baffled and annoyed his political opponents and proponents alike. Yet its magic has surprisingly caused him to weather through one political storm after another -- and each time to emerge even stronger politically.

Just as quietly, as if in pursuance of his policy of silence, the cabinet on Tuesday took a bold step without even a whispered word when it acknowledged a bill which will revoke a clause in the pensions act enabling government officials to extend their services beyond the retirement age for up to five years on a year-by-year basis. Such a bold decision by the cabinet, which would be unthinkable a few months back, reflected the growing confidence of the government, particularly that of Pa Prem who has unmistakably enjoyed the full backing of the palace.

Political observers quickly interpreted the cabinet's move as a clear indication that the government disagreed in principle with the extension of services of government officials, including that of Army chief General Athit Kamlang-ek who is scheduled to retire next October.

The extension issue cropped up in August this year when a petition signed by a long list of senior Army officers, including First Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Phichit Kunlawanit and Deputy Army Chief-of-Staff Lt-Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, was sent to Pa Prem calling for General Athit's tenure to be extended for two more years. Even the disgraced Young Turks who previously regarded General Athit as their foremost enemy came out openly in support for the renewal of the general's term.

The issue has since been kept in Pa Prem's heart as he has never once said or even implied that he in his capacity as the defence minister would agree to General Athit's extension. The only statement he made thus far was that he would personally deal with the problem in accordance with procedure.



It was believed then that with almost the entire Armed Forces rallying behind him, the extension of his tenure as supreme commander or particularly as Army commander-in-chief was only a matter of when rather than whether. But unfortunately, due to his miscalculations and ill-advised moves, especially his controversial television appearance early last month to challenge Pa Prem over the baht devaluation issue, his star has since been on the wane.

Pa Prem's submission of the pensions act amendment bill to the cabinet Tuesday for acknowledgement could be interpreted as his first official response to General Athit's extension issue. And his response was not at all a pleasant one for Athit.

By taking the case to the cabinet, Pa did not personally deal with the problem alone as he said four months ago, but wittingly shared the responsibility among his coalition parties. The timing could not have been better for Pa Prem as he now enjoys full support from all key quarters.

The bill which was sponsored by two Democrats, Thawin Phraison and Suthat Ngoenmun, will have to go through the parliament next May when the extension issue is expected to crop up again.

With all the bill pending parliamentary debates, it is believed Pa Prem would not make any decision until the bill has gone through the house. If it is passed, then the extension issue will be put to rest.

In fact, the pension act has often been criticised by the Democrats as undemocratic and serving the interest of the selected few. Ever since its amendment three years ago to enable the extension of Pa Prem's tenure as Army commander-in-chief, no other retiring officials have had their services extended though the law is supposed to apply to all retiring officials.

As for General Athit, he appears to understand his uncertain future and the political wind which is turning against him. So frustrated was the general that he recently told worshippers at a temple in Nakhon Ratchasima that he used to think that he would like to be reborn a woman if there was life after death, so that he would not have to work so hard.

In his speech to a group of radio programme organisers at the first Army Region Headquarters on Monday, he steadfastly defended his role the night he went on television to challenge Pa Prem and maintained that he had done so in good faith with good intention towards the people in general.

As the situation stands now, it looks as if the Sun [Athit] is about to set -- which is quite natural as Newton's law of gravity says "What goes up must come down!"

CPV CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS 7TH PLENUM 11-17 DEC

LK202358 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The fifth CPV Central Committee held its seventh plenum from 11 to 17 December to discuss the orientations and tasks of the socioeconomic plan for 1985 and the task of building districts and strengthening the district level. Comrade General Secretary Le Duan and other comrade leaders presided over the plenum.

The plenum discussed the status of implementation of the 1984 state plan and affirmed: In 1984, natural calamities occurred in almost all regions of the country: the Chinese expansionists intensified the war of land-grabbing at the northern border while feverishly intensifying their multifaceted war of sabotage; and the economy remained unbalanced in many respects. However, owing to the stalwart fighting spirit of the entire party, the entire people, and the entire Armed Forces, we surmounted acute trials and continued to advance steadily. Our Armed Forces and people defeated one step further the enemy's multifaceted war of sabotage, firmly maintained political security, firmly defended the northern border, and achieved new and encouraging progress and changes on the economic front.

Throughout the country, agricultural production has continued to develop satisfactorily while industrial production, communications, transportation, and capital construction have also developed. The tasks of procuring and controlling goods have achieved marked progress; the value of exports has increased; socialist transformation work has been stepped up; new production relations are being consolidated; socialist trade has been strengthened; the socialist market has been managed more satisfactorily in many localities; and scientific and technical work and educational, cultural, public health, and social activities have made progress.

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL ON 1985 TASKS, OBJECTIVES

BK210356 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Dec 84

[NHAN DAN 21 December editorial: "Heighten Revolutionary Will and Exploit All Capabilities To Effect New Changes in All Fields"]

[Text] Our people have just gone through 1984, a year replete with trials and hardships. Serious natural calamities repeatedly occurred throughout the country from the beginning to the end of the year. Supplies, energy, and foreign currency were more difficult to obtain than in previous years. International market prices fluctuated to our disadvantage. Along with conducting a multifaceted war of sabotage against our people, since April the Beijing reactionaries have stepped up the war of land-grabbing at our country's northern border. Our population increased by more than 1 million in 1984.

Despite all this, agricultural production has continued to develop satisfactorily. The volume of grain production, though falling short of this year's planned targets, has still exceeded last year's output, especially by the state sector, with the exception of the coal industry, has increased at a fairly high rate. The communications-transportation and capital construction sectors, and the tasks of goods procurement and control and socialist transformation have all made progress.

However, our country's economy is now still beset by numerous difficulties and major imbalances. The rate of economic development in 1984 was lower than in 1981 and 1983. This situation has stemmed from a number of subjective causes, aside from the objective causes. Bureaucracy, the practice of subsidization, conservatism, and sluggishness remain prevalent. Cadre and organization work has changed slowly. The task of providing guidance and administering management, through being gradually improved, still remains a weak link.

The seventh party Central Committee plenum, in light of the resolutions of the fifth party congress and the sixth party Central Committee plenum, has set forth the orientations and tasks of the 1985 socioeconomic plan. 1985 is the year in which the 1981-85 5-year state plan is concluded, the preparations are made for our party's sixth congress, and several major anniversaries are celebrated.

The 1985 state plan should be more imbued with the guiding thought and essence of the fifth party congress and of the resolutions of the sixth and seventh party Central Committee plenums. The 1985 plan must be aimed at achieving the four objectives set forth by the fifth party congress: namely, stabilizing and improving the people's living conditions; selectively building the material and technical bases of socialism; basically completing socialist transformation, consolidating and perfecting socialist production relations throughout the country; and consolidating national defense and security.

While making an effort to attain all these four objectives, we consider the task of solving the living conditions problem, especially the living conditions of wage earners and members of the Armed Forces, as our first objective of highest priority. The purpose of increasing production is to stabilize living conditions, but stabilized living conditions are the main moving force to increase production. Although this is a very important economic task, it is not just an economic problem; it has much wider political, national defense, and security ramifications. We must resolutely and urgently concentrate much intellect and energy and many efforts and concrete measures on achieving objective no 1 -- namely, to stabilize living conditions.

To do so, we must attach utmost importance to and concentrate the greatest efforts of the entire party, entire people, and entire Armed Forces as well as of each family on promoting exports in order to import the necessary supplies and equipment for these major tasks.

We should improve the managerial mechanism, step up socialist transformation, and enhance market management and control in order to enable the state to control goods and money and resolve a number of pressing problems concerning distribution and circulation, especially concerning prices, wages, finance, and banking.

To bring into full play the aggregate strength of the entire country, of all sectors and localities, of tens of thousands of production and business installations, and of the 400 districts, the most important thing presently is for us to resolutely and expeditiously abolish bureaucracy, the practice of subsidization, corruption, and wasteful habits and shift the entire economy to the system of profit-and-loss accounting and socialist business in accordance with the spirit of the resolution of the sixth party Central Committee plenum and with the viewpoints elaborated in the important address made by Comrade General Secretary Le Duan at this plenum.

While implementing our plan, we must closely combine economic building with national defense work and vice versa, ceaselessly consolidate national defense and security, not slacken our vigilance for even a minute, stand ready to cope with any eventuality, and resolutely defeat the multifaceted war of sabotage and the war of land-grabbing at our country's northern border conducted by the Chinese reactionaries.

The revolutionary situation in general and the socioeconomic situation in particular in our country are developing satisfactorily, but there are still a great many difficulties. With the correct decisions of the sixth and seventh party Central Committee plenums, with the positive factors that have recently been created and developed everywhere, and with our revolutionary will, our sense of collective mastery, our solidarity and singlemindedness, and our absolute confidence in the party Central Committee headed by esteemed Comrade General Secretary Le Duan, we will certainly be able to change the situation in all fields and achieve new successes in 1985, thereby making practical preparations for the sixth national party congress.

#### EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION OPENS 21 DEC

OW210809 Hanoi VNA in English 0744 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 21 -- The Vietnamese National Assembly, 7th legislature, opened its eighth session this morning at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall. Party General Secretary Le Duan, State Council President Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong, and other party and state leaders attended the opening. Also present were representatives of the diplomatic corps in Hanoi.

In his opening speech, National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho said that in the light of the resolutions of the Sixth and Seventh Plenums of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, the National Assembly will discuss the Council of Ministers' report on the 1984 state plan and budget, adopt the state plan and budget for 1985 and the budget accounting report of 1983. The Assembly will also hear report on the world situation and on the state's international activities, and will discuss and decide on a number of other important matters. It will work out measures to push production and economization, in order to stabilize the people's life, strengthen national defence and security, improve the economic and social management by largely applying the socialist cost-benefit accounting system with a view to fulfilling the 1985 plan.

This morning, the session heard the Council of Ministers report on the implementation of the state plan and the orientation for the 1985 state plan submitted by Vo Van Kiet, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Commission.

#### VAN TIEN DUNG, VO CHI CONG ADDRESS CEREMONY

OW201015 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] This morning, 19 December, the Armed Forces of the capital's military region ceremoniously held a meeting to mark the VPA's 40th founding anniversary and receive the noble order of Ho Chi Minh awarded by the party and the state.

Present were more than 500 representatives of various units of the military region, of various sectors and echelons of the center and Hanoi, and of adjacent military regions. Senior General Van Tien Dung, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and minister of national defense; Vo Chi Cong, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep, member of the party Central Committee and vice minister of national defense; Le Van Luong, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee; Tran Vy, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Hanoi municipal people's committee; Major General Lu Giang, commander of the capital's military region; and many other high-ranking cadres and heroes of the Armed Forces of the capital's military region attended and participated in the presidium of the meeting.

After the opening speech by Sen Gen Ta Dinh Hien, deputy commander of the capital's military region, the representative of the capital's military region command solemnly read the Council of State's decision awarding the order of Ho Chi Minh to the Armed Forces of the capital's military region and the Council of Ministers' decision granting medals of merit, first class, and other kinds of medals to some 28 units and 311 individuals on the occasion of the VPA's 40th founding anniversary.

On behalf of the Ministry of National Defense, Sen Gen Van Tien Dung pinned a medal of merit, first class, on the military flag of the heroic units of Regiment 692 of the Armed Forces of the capital's military region.

In a joyful and enthusiastic atmosphere, Maj Gen Lu Giang, commander of the capital's military region, delivered a speech stressing the military exploits of the capital's people and Armed Forces over the past 40 years.

[Begin Lu Giang recording] Along with the success of the national revolution and the vigorous development of all the Armed Forces, the Armed Forces of the capital's military region have also matured, fighting staunchly, scoring glorious exploits, and staying worthy of the confidence and love of the compatriots in the capital as well as in the entire country.

On this glorious anniversary, we recall that at the beginning of our resistance against French colonialism, Hanoi fought valiantly over 60 days and nights to check the enemy's advance, vowing to make sacrifices, if necessary, for the fatherland's survival. In the anti-U.S. resistance, in compliance with Uncle Ho's teaching that nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, Hanoi engaged in battle and production while aiding fraternal South Vietnam. As we can remember, during 12 historical days and nights in 1972, Hanoi knocked down B-52 Strato fortress aircraft, the idols of the U.S. Air Force, contributing to the liberation of South Vietnam and national reunification. When the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists treacherously started the war of aggression against our country, the Armed Forces and people of Hanoi readily set out to defend the fatherland, promptly sending manpower and materials to the frontline while striving to build a people's war position under the new conditions. They contributed to maintaining political security and social order and safety, gradually defeating the enemy's multifaceted war of sabotage and firmly protecting the socialist capital. For this reason, during the resistance years, the capital's Armed Forces and people were honorably awarded the determined-to-defeat U.S. aggression banner by Uncle Ho. Meanwhile, the National Assembly cited as heroes of the People's Armed Forces the capital's Armed Forces, three units of the Ba Vi district's armed forces, the self-defense battalion of the Quang Trung factory, and infantry Regiment 692 of the 301st Division.



This time, the party and the state awarded the order of Ho Chi Minh to the Hanoi capital's Armed Forces and medals of various types to 28 units and 311 individuals. We convey our warm congratulations to our capital's Armed Forces and people and to whose units and individuals. [applause] [end recording]

Sen Gen Van Tien Dung, minister of national defense, then delivered an address, citing the achievements of the capital's Armed Forces and people over the past 40 years and pointing out the immediate tasks for them. He stressed:

[Begin Van Tien Dung recording] In receiving the noble awards given by the state, the capital's Armed Forces should be aware of their heavy responsibilities in the face of the revolution in the new stage. While performing its combat and combat readiness tasks, the capital's military region should actively make worthy contributions and cooperate with the people in the capital and in the entire country in building Hanoi into a typical socialist city in our country and a prop for the entire country's revolutionary undertaking as specified in the Political Bureau's resolution on the capital's tasks. [applause] [end recording]

Representatives of the capital's Armed Forces attentively listened to the speeches by Comrades Vo Chi Cong and Le Van Luong, who stressed the new tasks in the new stage of the revolution for our entire country and the capital, Hanoi.

On behalf of the People's Armed Forces of the capital, Maj Gen Lu Giang pledged to the party Central Committee headed by beloved and esteemed Comrade General Secretary Le Duan that, under all circumstances, the capital's Armed Forces would always uphold vigilance, develop our Armed Forces' fine traditions, outstandingly fulfill all tasks, firmly defend the beloved capital, and stand ready to defeat the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists' multifaceted war of sabotage.

The meeting closed in an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, pride, and confidence.

#### KAMPUCHEAN DEFENSE MINISTER DECORATES VPA

OW201235 Hanoi VNA in English 0807 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 19 -- Bouthong, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary party and defence minister of Kampuchea, today conferred the Angkor Order, Kampuchea's highest distinction, on the Vietnam People's Army on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

The conferment was made at a ceremony held here today in the presence of Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Le Thanh Nghi, vice-chairman of the Council of State.

The ceremony was attended by General Van Tien Dung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and minister of national defence, General Chu Huy Man, member of the Political Bureau of the party C.C. and head of the V.P.A's General Political Department, General Hoang Van Thai, member of the party C.C. and deputy defense minister, Senior Lieutenant General Le Trong Tan, member of the C.P.V.C.C. and chief of the VPA's general staff, and many other high-ranking officers of the V.P.A.

On behalf of the Vietnam People's Army, General Van Tien Dung expressed great joy to receive the order and sincerely thanked the Kampuchean party, government and people for the conferment which, he said, was a high appreciation of the VPA's role in discharging its internationalist duty in Kampuchea.

He renewed the VPA's firm determination to join the Kampuchean people and their armed forces in the common struggle for peace, independence, freedom and socialism in their respective countries as well as on the Indochinese peninsular as a whole.

He stressed: "This noble honour will greatly encourage the Vietnamese Armed Forces and people to unite more closely with the fraternal Kampuchean people and Army in the struggle to defeat their common enemy, and further promote the great friendship, the militant solidarity, the special relationship and fraternal cooperation between the peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos."

#### MERIT MEDALS PRESENTED TO HANOI ARMY UNITS, CADRES

OW201227 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] On the occasion of the VPA's 40th founding anniversary, the National Assembly and the state have decided to award medals of merit and military exploit medals to many units and cadres of the capital's Armed Forces. Three medals of merit first class have been awarded to Major General Lu Giang, Major General Phi Trieu Ham, and Major General Ta Dinh Huu; 47 medals of merit second class to a unit and 46 cadres; and 160 medals of merit third class to five units and 155 cadres. Some 117 military exploit medals first class have been awarded. On the morning of 15 December, the capital's military region held a solemn medal-awarding ceremony, with the participation of Comrade Le Van Luong, secretary of the Hanoi municipal party committee and representatives of the municipal people's committee and of the Vietnam Fatherland Front chapter.

#### VPA'S VICTORIOUS ANTI-U.S. WAR REVIEWED

BK201119 Hanoi VNA in English 1722 GMT 19 Dec 84

["40th Anniversary of Vietnam People's Army: 20 Years of Victorious Anti-U.S. War for Liberating the South, Defending the North, and Reunifying the Country" -- VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 19 -- The following is the 4th in the file series on the Vietnam People's Army which will celebrate its 60th anniversary on December 22, 1984:

#### Simultaneous Uprisings and Founding of the Liberation Army in South Vietnam

With the success of the resistance war against the French colonialists, peace was restored in the whole of Indochina. However, Vietnam was temporarily divided into two zones with the north embarking on socialist construction while the south came under the rule of the imperialists and their henchmen.

Following the signing of the Geneva Agreements, the U.S. imperialists ousted the French colonialists, set up the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet regime and a puppet army, turning South Vietnam into their neo-colony and military base, and used their aid and advisers to take direct control of this puppet administration.

On U.S. orders, Ngo Dinh Diem launched a "unilateral war" against the people's political struggle for the implementation of the Geneva Agreements which provide for the holding of general elections and the reunification of Vietnam. With its policy of denunciation and elimination of communists and its notorious "210-59" law, the Diem regime dragged the guillotine everywhere to kill people en masse such as in Ngan Son, Chi Thach, Mo Cay, Cho Duoc and Cu Chi, and built thousands of prisons and concentration camps to detain Vietnamese patriots.



Seething with indignation, the people of South Vietnam rose up determinedly against the enemy's counter-revolutionary violence. From mid-1956 armed propaganda brigades were formed one after another in the centre of central Vietnam, in eastern and western South Vietnam, and in the mountain areas of the fifty interzone with the task of building and consolidating revolutionary bases in support of the people's struggle.

In August 1959, people of various ethnic groups in Tra Bong district, Quang Ngai (now Nghia Binh Province) and in a number of mountain areas in the fifth interzone rose up to fight back against enemy raids, destroying its "prosperity zones," establishing their "self-rule" administration and building fortifications to defend their native place.

In January 1960, the party committee of Ben Tre Province decided to mobilize the provincial people for simultaneous uprisings to punish the cruel agents, break up the enemy's coercion and seize power. This mass movement spread like wild fire from Ben Tre to all other provinces in South Vietnam proper, the central highlands and the central part of Central Vietnam, causing two thirds of the enemy's grassroots administrative to disintegrate. Guerrilla warfare began and developed rapidly.

It was in the midst of these tidal uprisings that the South Vietnam People's Armed Forces came into being. "Fighting units" of squad platoon or company size were founded at the villages or districts while local armies and even regular units were set up at provincial or regional level.

To invigorate the mass revolutionary movement, the South Vietnam National Liberation Front was founded in a liberated area in the eastern part of South Vietnam on December 20, 1960. Later, on February 15, 1961, the Military Commission of the party Central Committee decided to unite all the People's Armed Forces of South Vietnam into the South Vietnam Liberation Army as part of the Vietnam People's Army to take up combat duty in the south.

#### Defeating the U.S. "Special War" Strategy

To cope with the South uprisings and save its Ngo Dinh Diem stooge regime, the U.S. Administration under President John Kennedy in 1961 deployed its "special war" strategy whereby the war would be fought by puppet troops armed with modern U.S. weapons, commanded by U.S. advisors and according to U.S. plans. In May 1961, the U.S. set up the Military Advisory Command in Vietnam (M.A.C.V.) to take direct command of the puppet army's operations in execution of U.S. plans.

The first plan under this strategy was named after [Doctor] Staley and General Taylor aimed at "pacifying" South Vietnam within 18 months by penning up the people in "strategic hamlets," stemming the flow of reinforcements to the south from the north, strengthening the puppet army and using the "heliborne" and "armour" tactic in mopping-up operations to encircle and eliminate the revolutionary Armed Forces.

The South Vietnamese people closely combined political with armed struggle, popular uprisings with military attacks. They fought against the enemy in all the strategic areas: The mountain regions, the plain and the urban areas, and in a three-prong attack, on the military and political fronts and in the proselytization of the puppet army with a view to foiling the enemy's "strategic hamlet" policy and other war manoeuvres.

After the Staley-Taylor plan went bankrupt, the U.S. came up with the McNamara (also known as Johnson-McNamara) plan purposed to pacify South Vietnam within two years (1964-65), and to concentrate on forming at all cost 8,000 "strategic hamlets". By the end of 1966, however, some 90 percent of the already established "strategic hamlets" had been destroyed.

The victory at Ap Bac hamlet, in which a small unit of the regional revolutionary Army defeated a regular enemy force ten times bigger, marked a new step in the maturity of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces, demonstrating their capability of defeating the U.S. imperialists' special warfare. The Ap Bac victory later became the symbol of an emulation movement among the people and revolutionary Armed Forces throughout South Vietnam to rush forward and destroy the enemy, driving the U.S. and puppet armies into a more and more passive posture.

In December 1964, the South Vietnam people and their Armed Forces launched a new, major offensive to further whittle down the enemy strength, consolidate and widen the resistance and guerrilla bases, while intensifying the attack on the enemy's "selective pacification program". In this drive of offensive, they won a major victory at Binh Gia in Ba Ria District close to Saigon, putting out of action two battalions of the enemy's strategic reserve, two squadrons of M-113 armoured personnel carriers, two security guard companies and two commando platoons, and badly mauling two battalions. All told, the enemy suffered more than 2,000 casualties, including 52 Americans, and lost 47 military vehicles, 35 aircraft and large quantities of arms and ammunition.

Following the Binh Gia victory, the liberation forces won many other battles especially at Ba Gia (Quang Nghia) and Dong Xoai (north of Bien Hao City, Dong Nai Province), where they destroyed whole units of the enemy's main force.

Towards the middle of 1965, the U.S. special war strategy was considered a complete failure. The puppet army, the main instrument to carry out the strategy, was on the verge of collapse and faced the danger of complete disintegration and even annihilation.

#### U.S. Local War Strategy Defeated

With the failure of its "special war", the U.S. switched over to a new strategy, conducting a local war in the south and launching an air and naval war of destruction against the north.

The U.S. massively brought hundreds of thousands of American G.I.'s and troops of its satellites to South Vietnam, rapidly increased the puppet army, and mobilized thousands of modern aircraft to bomb North Vietnam. In their first direct encounters with the American aggressors, the Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces dealt stunning blows at the enemy bases in Nui Thanh and Van Tuong (Central Vietnam) as soon as they were reinforced with U.S. and satellite troops and later, in Play-Me (Gie Lai-Kontum) and Bau Xang (Thu Day Mot district, Song Be Province), and continued to harass the enemy on all other battlefields throughout South Vietnam under the watchwork "Look for American GI's to kill and puppet troops to destroy".

It was at the peak of the U.S. war escalation that the party Central Committee held its 14th plenum (December 1967) and decided to mount a general offensive and simultaneous uprising known as the "Tet Mau Than" the 1968 offensive, with the aim of inflicting a decisive blow on the U.S. aggressive will.

On the night of January 30-31, 1968, the South Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces simultaneously rose up in 64 cities and provincial capitals and many large rural and suburban areas, attacking a series of military bases, defensive lines, airports, arms depots, harbours and communication lines, including important headquarters of the U.S., satellite and puppet troops.

In Saigon, the U.S. Embassy, the puppet presidential palace, the headquarters of the puppet army's general staff, the municipal police headquarters, the Saigon garrison headquarters and Tan Son Nhat Airport, were major targets of the liberation army's attacks.

In the old imperial city of Hue (now capital of Binh Tri Thien Province), the revolutionary forces captured all important targets within 48 hours and completely controlled the city for 26 days and nights.

In Quang Tri Province (now part of Binh Tri Thien Province) and on Highway 9, infantry and tank units of the liberation army destroyed the Hung Hoa military sub-sector and the Lang Vay camp of the puppet army, then moved on to encircle the Khe Sanh-Ta Con base of the U.S. for 150 days, forcing the U.S. to vacate Khe Sanh.

In the countryside, the revolutionary masses destroyed a series of "strategic hamlets" and forced the enemy to withdraw from many posts and pillboxes, breaking up his coercion and establishing the revolutionary power, thus consolidating and expanding the liberated areas.

The Mau Than general offensive and simultaneous uprising in the spring of 1968 was a big and all-round victory. The V.P.A. killed, wounded or captured more than 20,000 enemy troops including 70,000 [figures as received] GI's and mercenaries. It also caused the disbanding of 210,000 puppet troops, shot down or destroyed nearly 3,600 aircraft, demolished more than 5,000 military vehicles, including 1,750 tanks and armoured cars, and about 400 artillery pieces, sank or damaged 330 warships and other vessels, razed to the ground more than 820 posts and pillboxes, and liberated more than 1,000 hamlets with [figure indistinct] million inhabitants.

This victory was a thunder blow to the more than 1.2 million GI's, mercenaries and Saigon puppet troops. It sounded the death knell for the U.S. imperialists' "local war" strategy.

Defeating the U.S. "Vietnamization of the War" Strategy

After all the aggressive strategies and plans undertaken of three successive U.S. presidents, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson, had come a cropper one after another, Richard Nixon, the 36th U.S. president devised a new strategy known as "Vietnamization of the war" with intent to use Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, or, as the American press put it, to change the skin colour of the corpses on the battlefield, with U.S. dollars and weapons.

Along with atrocious search-and-destroy operation, the enemy launched the so-called "quick pacification" then "special pacification" programs, took the war to Kampuchea and intensified its "special war" in Laos.

In spring of 1971 the South Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces recorded a major victory on Highway 9 and in southern Laos, thwarting the enemy's "Lam Son 719" operation. In more than 50 days of this battle, the V.P.A. put out of action more than 20,000 enemy troops, shot down or destroyed 550 aircraft, seized or destroyed more than 500 tanks and armoured cars and 144 heavy artillery pieces.

The strategic spring-1972 offensive tilted the balance of force in favour of the revolution and radically changed the situation of the war, leading to the bankruptcy of the U.S. imperialists "Vietnamization of the war" strategy.

#### Defeating the U.S. Air and Naval War of Destruction Against Vietnam

After four years of war escalation and in the face of repeated successes of the Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces in both zones of the country, on March 31, 1968 the U.S. Administration had to declare a "bomb halt" north of the 20th parallel, and on November 1, 1968 it had to unconditionally end the war of destruction against North Vietnam and sit down at the negotiating table in Paris.

However, in early 1972, as their "Vietnamization of the war" strategy had fizzed out the U.S. imperialists renewed their air and naval bombardments of North Vietnam on a much larger scale and with much greater intensity and atrocity, particularly, in late December 1972, the Nixon administration launched a strategic B-52 blitz on Hanoi, Hai Phong and many other areas in the north. The Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces responded with fitting blows, recording resounding exploits.

All told, in the two stages of the U.S. air and naval war of destruction lasting from August 6, 1964 to January 11, 1973, the North Vietnamese people and Armed Forces shot down 4,181 U.S. aircraft (including 68 B-52's and 13 F-111's), killed thousands of U.S. pilots and captured 472 others (including four colonels, 38 lieutenants) and 271 times sank or set afire U.S. warships and commando vessels.

Suffering staggering losses in the south and humiliating failures in the north and condemned by the whole progressive mankind President Nixon had to sign the Paris Agreement on ending the war in Vietnam and committed himself to respect Vietnam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and cease U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. On March 29, 1973, the U.S. expeditionary corps furled its flag and pulled out of South Vietnam.

#### The spring 1975 General Offensive and Uprising and the Historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign

Following the withdrawal of American GI's from South Vietnam in late 1973, U.S. imperialism weakened in all fields while the V.P.A. continued to grow. In such a situation, the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee decided to mount a general offensive in 1975 and the first target was Buon Ma Thuot town in the central highlands. The central highlands campaign started on March 10, 1975 with the quick capture of all enemy posts and positions in Buon Ma Thuot. The V.P.A. put out of action two enemy regiments and badly mauled the 23rd Division of the puppet army, shaking the whole enemy defence system in the central highlands. With the chieftains of the puppet administration fleeing in panic, the people rose up and, with the support of the revolutionary Armed Forces, liberated Binh Dinh, Lam Dong, and Khanh Hao Provinces and Nha Trang City.

The subsequent lightning attack on Hue and Danang cities took the enemy by surprise and dealt it crushing blows that ruled out all possibilities for it to regain its strength. These and other cities were liberated one after another in a matter of days.

The historic Ho Chi Minh campaign started on April 26, 1975. At 10:45 hours on April 30, 1975, the liberation forces took the residence of the puppet president and captured the whole central government of the puppet administration, forcing them to accept unconditional surrender. At precisely 11:30 hours on the same day, a flag atop the "Independence Palace" signaled the end of the puppet regime, stooge of the U.S. imperialists aggressors.

In the flush of victory, the V.P.A. liberated all the Mekong Delta provinces on April 30 and May 1.

In 55 days and nights of this general and offensive and mass uprising, the people and revolutionary Armed Forces completely smashed the Saigon puppet administration and army, annihilating or causing disintegration of more than one million men of the regular army and 1.5 million men of the "civilian defence" of the enemy. In terms of unit, it put out of action four army corps totalling 13 divisions, 18 commando battalions, six divisions, 22 naval regiments, 22 armoured regiments, 66 artillery battalions and the entire police and security forces.

The spring 1975 general offensive and mass uprising was the largest strategic offensive and also the biggest military victory in the history of the Vietnamese people's fight against foreign aggression. It successfully concluded the Vietnamese people's great anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation and put a definitive end to more than a century of imperialist rule in Vietnam, ushered in the era of independence, unity and socialist construction on a national scale for the Vietnamese people.

#### LAO DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN HANOI 18 DEC

BK190423 Hanoi VNA in English 1717 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 18 -- A delegation of the Lao People's Army led by General Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defence, arrived here today for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army (Dec 22).

The Lao delegation was welcomed at the guest house of the Defence Ministry here by General Van Tien Dung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of national defense; General Chu Huy Man, Political Bureau member of the CPV CC and head of the General Political Department; General Hoang Van Thai, member of the CPV CC and vice-minister of national defense; Senior Lieutenant General Le Trong Tan, member of the CPV CC, vice minister of national defence and chief of the General Staff; Phan Dinh Vinh, deputy head of the International Department of the CPV Central Committee; Nong Quoc Chan, vice president of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association; and Vo Van Sung, assistant to the Vietnamese foreign minister.

Lao Ambassador Khamfeuane Tounalom and Lao military attache Sathiene Kesonsy were also present.

The same day general Van Tien Dung and many other leading officers of the defence ministry cordially met with Lao General K. Siphandon and his party.

Welcoming the Lao delegation, General Van Tien Dung said that its visit was another token of the militant solidarity and special friendship of the fraternal Lao people and Lao People's Army with the Vietnamese people and Armed Forces.



This afternoon, General Van Tien Dung, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, conferred Vietnam's "Victorious Army Flag" medal on General K. Siphandon and the other members of the Lao delegation.

Speaks to Hanoi press

OW210843 Hanoi VNA in English 0728 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 21 -- "The Vietnam People's Army (VPA) is a heroic revolutionary army. The past victories over the two big imperialist forces scored by the V.P.A. and the Vietnamese people were concrete evidence of its heroic tradition," said Lao Defence Minister General Khamtai Siphandon to Vietnamese reporters.

In an interview given recently in Hanoi to newsmen of VNA and the radio and television of Vietnam, on the occasion of the 40th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army (Dec. 22), General Khamtai Siphandon, also Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander-in-chief of the Lao People's Army, appreciated the V.P.A.'s effective assistance to the Kampuchean people in up-rooting the Chinese-backed Pol Pot genocidal gang, "this great and glorious accomplishment of the VPA was of great importance not only to the Vietnamese people but to mankind as a whole", underlined the defence minister.

Regarding the militant solidarity between the L.P.A. and the V.P.A., he spoke highly of the V.P.A.'s precious and effective assistance to the Lao revolution, describing it as a contribution to the consolidation of the profound solidarity and friendship between the combatants and peoples of the two countries." The Lao defence minister highly appreciated the active contributions of the V.P.A. to other nations' cause of national independence, peace, and stability in southeast Asia and the rest of the world. Finally he laid emphasis on the need to further strengthen the combative alliance between Laos and Vietnam, and among Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea.

PRK DEFENSE MINISTER, DELEGATION ARRIVE 18 DEC

BK190454 Hanoi VNA in English 1711 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 18 -- A delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army led by Bou Thang, Political Bureau member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defence, arrived here today to attend celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army (Dec 22).

It was welcomed at the Defense Ministry's guest house here by General Van Tien Dung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of national defence; General Chu Huy Man, Political Bureau member of the CPV CC and head of the General Political Department; General Hoang Van Thai, member of the CPV CC and deputy national defence minister; Senior Lieutenant-General Le Trong Tan, member of the CPV CC, deputy national defence minister and chief of the General Staff; Phan Dinh Vinh, deputy head of the International Department of the CPV CC and vice-president of the Vietnam-Kampuchea Friendship Association; Vo Van Sung, assistant to the Vietnamese foreign minister; and many other senior Army officers.

Kampuchean Ambassador Sieng Saran and Kampuchean Military Attache [word indistinct] Van Sarat were also present.

After guiding the Kampuchean delegation to review a guard of honour of the VPA, General Van Tien Dung cordially received it. He said at the reception that coming here this time for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the VPA, the delegation has brought the expressions of the militant solidarity and special friendship of the fraternal Kampuchean people and revolutionary army to the Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces.

On this occasion, National Defence Minister General Van Tien Dung, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, this afternoon conferred Vietnam's "Victorious Army Flag" medal on Kampuchean National Defence Minister Bou Thang and the other members of the delegation.

#### BANQUET HONORS LAO, PRK ARMY DELEGATIONS

BK190512 Hanoi VNA in English 1723 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 18 -- The Ministry of National Defence gave a grand banquet here this evening in honour of the visiting Lao and Kampuchean Army delegations.

Present on the occasion, on the Vietnamese side, were General Van Tien Dung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party Central Committee and minister of national defence; General Chu Huy Man, Political Bureau member of the party C.C. and head of the General Political Department; General Hoang Van Thai, member of the party C.C. and vice-minister of national defence; senior Lieutenant-General Le Trong Tan, member of the party C.C., vice-minister of national defence and chief of the General Staff; Phan Dinh Vinh, deputy head of the party C.C.'s International Department; and Vo Van Sung, assistant to the foreign minister.

The guests were the Lao delegation led by Minister of National Defence Gen Khamtai Siphandon, the Kampuchean delegation led by Minister of National Defence Bou Thang, Lao Ambassador Khampeun Tounalom and Kampuchean Ambassador Sieng Saran.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Armed Forces, Gen Van Tien Dung expressed his joy to receive the Lao and Kampuchean Army delegations here on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army, and highly praised the militant solidarity and the loyal, special friendship between the three Indochinese countries.

Gen Van Tien Dung affirmed among the other things that the revolutionary struggle of the three Indochinese nations contributed to checking the expansion of the Chinese reactionaries to Southeast Asia and to safeguarding peace and stability in this region and the rest of the world.

#### LE DUAN RECEIVES DOMINICAN COMMUNIST DELEGATION

BK200245 Hanoi VNA in English 1704 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 1984 -- Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, cordially received here this afternoon the visiting delegation of the Communist Party of Dominica [CPD] led by its general secretary Narciso Isa Conde.

Present at the reception were Vu Quang, member of the CPV CC and head of its international department, Tran Danh Tuyen and Do Van Tai, deputy heads of the party Central Committee's International Department.

General Secretary Le Duan warmly welcomed the Vietnam visit of the high-level delegation of the CPD which, he said, has brought to the Vietnamese party and people the militant solidarity and fraternal friendship of the communists and people of the Dominican Republic. He voiced Vietnam's close solidarity with and support for the just struggle of the Communist Party and other leftist, democratic and progressive forces of Dominican.

In his reply, Narciso Isa Conde thanked the hospitality of the Vietnamese party and people and expressed the Dominican Communist Party and people's unswerving solidarity with and support to the Vietnamese people in socialist construction and national defence, especially in the fight against Chinese expansionism in collusion with U.S. imperialism.

The reception took place in an atmosphere brimming with close fraternity.

#### HOANG TUNG ATTENDS OPENING OF PRESS CENTER

OW200955 Hanoi VNA in English 0813 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 19. -- The Vietnam Journalists' Association (VJA), held a ceremony here this morning to inaugurate Vietnam's press centre. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Hoang Tung, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the VJA, Le Xuan Dong, deputy head of the party Central Committee's department for propaganda and training, and representatives of VNA and central and local newspapers.

Present on the occasion was a delegation of the International Organization of Journalists (OIJ) including Dr. P. Jandsa, director of the OIJ Lottery, Dr. M. Navara, director of the OIJ Tourism, Ian Kuchar, specialist in printing, and Ian Borovicka, specialist in architecture and construction. Representatives of diplomatic corps here and correspondents of news agencies from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic were also present.

The Vietnam press centre has been built with the assistance of the OIJ and by funds raised by OIJ lotteries. Its equipment has been furnished by the journalists' associations of the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, the G.D.R. and Bulgaria.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Janda reiterated OIJ's unswerving support and assistance to Vietnam as well as to the Vietnam Journalists' Association.

Hoang Tung, for his part, expressed gratitude to the OIJ leaders for their assistance in helping Vietnam build the centre and to those countries which have helped equip the centre.

AUSTRALIAPANEL TO QUESTION BRITISH VETERANS ON N-TESTS

BK201519 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The royal commission into British nuclear tests in Australia in the 1950's is to take evidence in London from Lord (Penny), the director of the tests.

The commission is due to start its London hearings on 3 January and is expected to question about 30 British veterans of the tests. The commission's report is due to be handed to the federal government next June.

PAPUA NEW GUINEANAMALIU MAKES 'SWEEPING CHANGES' TO CABINET

BK211142 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1110 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Mr Somare, has made sweeping changes to his cabinet. Eight ministers have been dropped and nine new ministers appointed from the backbenchers.

The foreign minister, Mr Rabbie Namaliu, was among those given new portfolio. Mr Namaliu is reported to have expressed the desire for a ministry which would allow him to spend more time with his family. Mr Namaliu takes over primary industry, while John Giheno takes over foreign affairs.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Pias Wingti, takes over education, and the former education minister, Sir Barry Holloway, goes to national planning.

Mr Somare said he has reshuffled his cabinet because there was a need for change to provide stability and guidelines for development. He said that performance of some ministers had slipped and older ministers had stood down to give younger people a chance.

MALAYSIAMAHATHIR COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

BK191019 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister says it is clear that more countries want the concept of South-South cooperation to be a success. This follows the failure of North-South dialogue and the reluctance of the developed countries to enter into a meaningful dialogue to restructure the international economic order. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir made this assessment after his recent visits to three Islamic African countries. The prime minister's visit took him to Libya, Egypt, and Mali.

Among the issues discussed with leaders of the three countries were ways to strengthen Islamic unity and enhance bilateral trade and economic relations. Our correspondent, Mokhtar Kadir, reports that Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir has suggested that the Malaysian Overseas Investment Corporation visit Mali to identify products which could be imported from that country. Malaysia has offered agricultural training facilities to the Mali Government. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and his delegation have left for Saudi Arabia to perform the umroh [minor pilgrimage] in Mecca.

MCA MEMBERS URGED NOT TO OVERREACT TO MUSA CALL

BK191219 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon -- MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] members have been urged not to overreact to the suggestion by acting Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam that the party leave the Barisan Nasional [National Front] fold temporarily to resolve its internal crisis. The call was made by MCA Vice-President Datuk Lew Sip Hon here today.

Datuk Lew, the Malaysian ambassador to the United States and MP for Shah Alam who is back here on leave, also said that he viewed with concern the statement by Datuk Musa. "However, I feel that Datuk Musa is sincere in wanting to see the MCA crisis end as soon as possible. "We in the MCA, should not read any ulterior motives into the statement. Neither should we over-react to what Datuk Musa said." He also pointed out that a confrontational attitude should not be adopted in trying to solve the MCA crisis or its position within the Barisan Nasional.

Datuk Lew, who maintained that he had been neutral all along in the party crisis, said the conflict between acting MCA President Datuk Dr Neo Yee Pan and the Tan Koon Swan faction had dragged on for far too long with no solution in sight. He added that this had affected the image of the MCA not only among the Chinese community but also among all Malaysians.

"With Datuk Musa's statement, now is the time for the two factions to re-examine their positions and find a quick solution to the party crisis for the sake of the MCA and the Chinese community," he stressed. "Now is also the time for the MCA to show unity. All MCA members should sink their differences and set aside their personal interests and ambitions for the sake of party unity.

OVER 2,000 COMMUNISTS ACTIVE ALONG THAI BORDER

BK191009 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 0900 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] A total of 2,180 communist terrorists are still operating actively along the Malaysian-Thai border. The deputy home affairs minister, Mr Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, said that the Communist Party of Malaya has begun recruiting new members believed to be Malaysian and Thai citizens. He told the Senate that the terrorist group is continuing to receive directives from China. However, they do not pose too serious a threat.



PICCIO CONFIRMS SOVIET INTRUSIONS IN AIRSPACE

HK210445 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 2230 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Air Force chief Major General Vicente Piccio confirmed yesterday [20 December] that the Philippine Air Force has on several occasions intercepted Soviet fighter planes which have entered Philippine airspace. The confirmation was made by Gen Piccio at a meeting with the media at Villamor Air Base. According to the general, the Soviet planes entering Philippine airspace on several occasions have been TV-22's and Tu-95's, Soviet long distance observation planes which are known as Bears.

Piccio remarked that the Soviets may just have been checking Filipino capability to intercept intruding aircraft.

MARCOS URGES NEW ROUND OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

OW201245 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Dec 84

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] There should be a new round of negotiations between rich and poor nations to deal with the problems of energy, food, and persistent balance of payments deficits that hamper the progress of Third World countries. The president issued the call in talk with newsmen at Malacanang.

The president said the objective of the 1981 Cancun summit in Mexico was to narrow the gap between rich and poor nations, but this objective has not been realized. The president told newsmen that he submitted four documents to the Cancun Summit to help solve these problems.

[Begin Marcos recording] We must solve the North-South dialogue. We must get the, let's say, established leaderships of the developed, of the northern countries to accept the inevitable, and with their help we too should accept it and sacrifice. Unless we do that, we (?may get up and die). And it is my hope that ... [changes thought] you will remember that I wrote several books on Cancun. I find out now that they're a complete study of the North-South dialogue. I intend to try and work on this. I've been working on it for several days now. [end recording]

GEN RAMAS ADDRESSES NATIONAL PRESS CLUB FORUM

HK210810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0349 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Manila, Dec 21 (AFP) -- Philippine Army chief Major General Josephus Ramas today ruled out the possibility of a military takeover and said the Armed Forces would abide by any judicial decision on the Benigno Aquino murder case.

The general told a forum of the National Press Club here that there was no historical precedent for a military takeover in the Philippines and stressed that every officer had pledged to "defend and support the Constitution." "No way will there be a military junta at all," said the highest military officer after acting Armed Forces chief Lieutenant General Fidel Ramos, in reply to a question about the possibility of a military junta assuming power.

President Ferdinand Marcos' seclusion from direct public view since mid-November -- officially described as a bout with the flu and rumored to be due to a major operation -- had sparked fears of a government power struggle.

A newspaper's report that some 100 tanks under Gen. Ramas' command were moving unusually here increased popular anxiety, but the report was later traced by officials to the arrival of armored vehicles from the United States.

Gen. Ramas today said some people imagined unusual tank movements on seeing the vehicles being driven to the army camp in suburban Manila from the pier.

Asked about the implication of Armed Forces Chief General Fabian Ver in opposition leader Benigno Aquino's murder, Gen. Ramas, a known Ver protege, said "the opinion in the Army ....is that the law should take its course."

Emphasizing that Gen. Ver, who is on leave pending the resolution of the case, had not yet been indicted, Gen. Ramas said a prosecution agency now studying the report of a probe board should be allowed to "do their own thing." He said a much-criticized published manifesto of support by a majority of the country's generals for Gen. Ver, whose innocence they affirmed, was "merely a statement of personal opinion."

Gen. Ramas said in a reply to a question that he did not see any need at the moment to return to martial law, which was in force from September 1972 to January 1981, despite the growth of communist insurgency in the countryside. However, defended the emergency-rule period as "a noble experiment in the democratic style of martial law."

Gen. Ramas brushed aside reports that the New People's Army (NPA), a military wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), had achieved a standoff with security forces in some areas. He said NPA guerrillas controlled only about six to seven percent of barangays or basic communities across the country, far from the 50 percent danger point, and that Manila was not threatened at all. "It would take some doing to really convert Manila into a communist playground," he said.

#### OPPOSITION SEARCHING FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

OW201335 Quezon City RNP Television Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Dec 84

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] Key oppositionists are battling for the formulation of democratic processes in selecting the opposition's presidential and vice presidential standard-bearers. According to the UNIDO [United Nationalist Democratic Organization] Council of leaders and key opposition leaders, this mode of selection could be undertaken on a fast-track or slow-track basis.

They are urging Mrs Cory Aquino and former Senator Lorenzo Tanada to accept their offer to head the opposition's National Unification Committee. In his capacity as spokesman and liaison man of the Convenors Group, Member of Parliament Luis Villafuerte said the UNIDO and duly elected Batasan representatives of the opposition are ready to present an effective approach to a highly probable emergency situation in the country. Eleven probables are now in the list of the Convenors Group as presidential bets. This list, according to MP Aquilino Pimentel Jr, is not at all divisive.

#### TATAD ON PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS' PLATFORM

HK201543 Manila BUSINESS DAY in English 9 Dec 84 pp 4, 5

["Here and Now" column by Francisco S. Tatad]

[Text] Eleven presidential aspirants have started putting together a political platform.

This serves to assure us (nonaspirants) that they realize the need to lead the nation on the basis of some useful ideas, rather than on the basis merely of "charisma," hatred of Marcos, or unjustified personal ambition.

The initial reports indicate a consensus on several important points, including: the promulgation of a new constitution within 18 months after taking power; the legalization of the Communist Party; a general and unconditional amnesty for political prisoners; and the removal of military bases in the Philippines. Each of these touches a fundamental question.

1) We need a new constitution freely made and adopted by the Filipino people, and which will not be obeyed or violated according to the personal convenience of those in power. The opposition should work for the writing of such a constitution. But it is one thing to be committed to that endeavor, and to actually work for it, and quite another to make a solemn declaration that it shall promulgate a new constitution 18 months after taking power. Given the KBL control of the Batasan, it would be playing the nation false to promise a new constitution, without regard of that important reality, according to a prearranged timetable.

2) The legalization of the Communist Party is, to some oppositionists, the best way of making the armed opposition compete peacefully in the political struggle. If the communists have really grown that strong, then we should be able to elect a communist president and take the country on the path of communism. If not, let them wither away in the electoral struggle. That is what many non-communists want. But is it what the communists want? Are they ready or willing to give up the gains of their armed struggle? Or is this merely a ploy on the part of our traditional politicians to attract the support of the Left, without having to make clear one's position whether one is for or against communism?

In the face of the communist-led insurgency, which is not less serious than the problem of authoritarianism, can we afford to place the nation's destiny in the hands of one more opportunistic politician, who does not even have the integrity -- let us not talk of courage -- to say openly where he stands? Can we afford to install in the presidency one who is naive enough to believe he is using the communists, while in fact acting as their "useful fool?"

3) A general amnesty for political prisoners should go a long way in restoring the place of human rights in society, and in rebuilding the political, economic and social order. But can an incoming administration, motivated by justice, solidarity and reconciliation, ignore exceptional cases where one has committed serious crimes against others -- crimes which are punishable?

4) Lastly, there is the bases question. It is important because it involves the security of the nation. But it is also an emotional question. In fact, some observers are curious to know whether such emotionalism was not, in fact, behind the fact that a much bigger and more animated crowd seemed to have attended the last anti-bases demonstration than the Nov. 27 birthday anniversary celebration of Ninoy's. The question then is, is there anyone in the opposition, or the academe, who has undertaken sufficient studies as to be able to speak with authority on the question? Is it an issue that can be resolved by cost-benefit analysis, or is it one that follows strictly ideological lines?

Almost every nationalist says the presence of the bases, and of nuclear material either stored at or transitting through the bases, presents a serious nuclear peril to the population. To this, others have retorted that we live in a nuclear age, where the possession of nuclear power is both a magnet and a deterrent to such peril, where non-possession is often a greater magnet than deterrent to the same, and where no one, in case of a holocaust, would be free from nuclear contamination. The debate will go on.

ASEAN members have long agreed that foreign military bases in the area are only temporary in nature, and that they should themselves ultimately create a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region. Yet the Soviet advance has threatened the region with disequilibrium, and the most vocal advocates of neutralism have since become the leading exponents of a stronger American presence.

Filipinos have no reason to be overjoyed with this for the simple reason that it is the Philippines that provides the bases from which the US can project its power, while the other countries merely benefit from the arrangement. Any lack of enthusiasm becomes even more justified when it is seen that the other countries, which are reaping the fruits without cost of the security arrangement are enjoying unprecedented growth while the Philippines remains the bottom-performer.

But it remains to be asked whether the Philippine bases are more harmful to Filipinos and their way of life than the Soviet bases in Vietnam. Would our country be more safe, without the bases, despite the presence of Soviet missiles in Siberia, bases at Cam Ranh bay and Danang, and a modern Pacific fleet of 700 ships homeported at Vladivostok in the Sea of Japan and at Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka Peninsula? Without the Seventh Fleet at Subic, would the Philippine Navy have the submarine capability to provide adequate security cover for our oil shipments from the Persian Gulf, or our emergency rice imports from China and Indonesia? Without the 13th Air Force, would the Philippine Air Force have the capability to provide adequate nighttime, or even ordinary daytime, defense against routine Soviet or other violations of our airspace?

These are not the most embarrassing questions that can be asked, and will have to be asked, in any serious study of this question. There are so many others, the variety and combination of which tell us that the issue is complex and complicated before it is simple.

We have in this country, nationalists of the finest water, who maintain, as a matter of conviction, that the bases threaten our very survival and that their removal would free us from nuclear danger. The point is oversimple and highly debatable, but this does not detract from the merit of these men. Because they sincerely believe that the bases, rather than the economy or the constitutional order, constitute the most important issue to be resolved in a presidential election, then let them campaign on that platform.

But there are, in that group of 11 opposition aspirants, politicians whose only criticism of the US is that it has been supporting Mr. Marcos rather than anyone of them. They do not share the view of a Tanada or a Diokno, and they show some of the worst excess of capitalism, and yet they have not spoken to defend their position. Their silence is deafening. And that is disgraceful.

Neither pro-Americanism nor anti-Americanism is a virtue or qualification for the presidency, and we should reject the man or the party who proclaims that one or the other is. And we must guard against being duped by those who put on the habits of nationalism and shout the slogans of nationalism in order to hide the most dangerous servility to a foreign power.

On one side there are demagogues who, in the face of the most naked abuse of power, corruption and incompetence, by the authoritarian order, manage to tell us that the real villain is imperialism -- although limited only to American imperialism. On the other, there are demagogues who, in the face of the most distressing national problems, manage to give us the impression that the U.S. will provide the solutions. Both types are now more than adequately represented in the group of 11. What we need is an honest man who will tell us that our most serious problems are of our own making, and that they will be solved by putting together a program that relies more on the participation of the Filipino people, instead of pointing to the U.S. as either the villain or the savior.

SANTA ANA MAYOR DIES OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS

OW201405 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Dec 84

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] Mayor (Magno Manago) of Santa Ana, Pambanga, died this morning of a gunshot wound suffered 5 days ago at the hands of a lone assassin. Mayor (Manago) died at 1235 this morning [0435 GMT] at the Clark Air Base Station Hospital in Angeles City. Five days ago, Mayor (Manago) was shot in the neck with a .45 caliber pistol by a lone gunman near the altar of the Santa Ana Catholic Church in Panamga after attending a misa de gallo, or dawn mass. Based on the testimonies of witnesses, the gunman -- it was suggested -- could be a member of the New People's Army.

ARMY RECEIVES MORE U.S. ARMORED VEHICLES

HK210519 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 2230 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] A third shipment of armored vehicles from the United States, which was ordered by the government, arrived last night [20 December]. The vehicles were unloaded at the south harbor from the ship President Monroe. This brings to 56 the number of armored vehicles of the VI50 type which have arrived from the United States since the middle of this year. The military vehicles have been obtained by the Philippines under the terms of the military bases agreement, in line with the government's program to modernize the Armed Forces. According to military authorities, the new armored cars will be sent to rebel-infested areas like those in Mindanao.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS SUCCESSION LAW 'TIMELY'

OW201353 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Dec 84

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] On the question of presidential succession, Foreign Minister Arturo Tolentino stressed on Tell the People last night that a law for that purpose is timely and should be enacted as soon as possible. However, he warned against problems that could crop up in case lawmakers insist on defining and replacing the president on a basis of temporary incapacity.

[Begin Tolentino recording] A succession law is imperative. It is the best time to discuss now a succession law, because the interest in the matter is very high and both parties are trying to contribute the best they can in order to have a good succession law. My only thinking, however, is that a succession law must be viewed from a very non-partisan point of view. [end recording]



BRUNEIREPORTAGE ON SULTAN'S VISIT TO EGYPT, JORDAN

For Cairo media coverage of the 3-day visit to Egypt of Sultan of Brunei Hassanah Bolkiah, including his reception by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the dinner banquet Mubarak hosted in the sultan's honor, see the Egypt section of the 18 December Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

For Jordanian media coverage of the sultan's visit to Amman, see the Jordanian section of the 20 December Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

INDONESIANETHERLANDS COOPERATION MINISTER ENDS VISIT

BK190628 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The Netherlands minister of cooperation and development, Mrs Eegje Schoo, ended her visit to Indonesia and returned to the Netherlands yesterday evening.

Answering a reporter's question, Mrs Schoo said that she was satisfied with her talks with Indonesian officials and noticed much progress in the implementation of projects developed under the Indonesian-Dutch cooperation program. However, she refused to reveal the estimate of aid to be given by the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia to Indonesia for next year because her current visit was not in her capacity as the chairman of IGGI.

The Netherlands cooperation and development minister arrived in Indonesia at the invitation of Coordinating Minister for Economics, Finance, Industry and Development Control Ali Wardhana on 8 December. During her visit she paid a courtesy call on President Suharto and met a number of cabinet ministers. She also visited some projects financed with Netherlands Government aid.

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Dec 24 1984

